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Strike Enters Second Day; Developments Reported

AU1705192991 Paris AFP in English 1628 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 17 (AFP)—The capital city of Tirana ground to a halt on Friday as a general strike for more pay and better working conditions entered a second day, an Albanian journalist said.

"Nobody is working today in Tirana, life is totally paralysed and there is no public transport," said the journalist contacted in Tirana by telephone from Belgrade.

The strike call was also strongly heeded in the mines of Valias, near Tirana, in the port city of Durres, 35 kilometres (22 miles) west of the capital, and in the anti-communist strongholds of Shkoder in the northwest and Kavaje. Newsstands were also empty as printers were on strike and even the Communist Party daily ZERI I POPULLIT failed to appear for the first time ever.

The workers are demanding a 50 per cent pay rise and better conditions, but the government has so far only offered 22 per cent to 30 per cent.

The government has called on the strikers to end their action before it has disastrous consequences on the economy, but the leader of the independent trade unions, Kastriot Muca, has warned that the action will continue until their demands are met.

A demonstration is planned in Tirana on Saturday at which the strike leaders are expected to call on the government to resign and for parliament to be dissolved, the Albanian journalist said.

The Albanian authorities have said that the strike is beginning to affect vital sectors such as food production, transport, energy and public services.

People's Assembly Debates General Strike

AU1705161991 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1600 GMT 17 May 91

[Zamire Koleci report]

[Text] Dear listeners, I am speaking live from the hall where the proceedings of the People's Assembly's afternoon session have just begun. At its start, Presidency Chairman Kastriot Islami added a supplementary item to the deputies' agenda, the Council of Ministers' report on the situation created after the declaration of the strike and the government's measures to meet the strikers' demand, an item that was prepared by Deputy Avdi Baleta.

Deputy Leontiev Cuci then took the floor, explaining to deputies the duty the government has entrusted to him of preparing a report on wages and prices, which will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for approval on 20 May. Stressing the strikers' just demands, he also described the real impossibility of fulfilling them in the present economic situation. In conclusion, he once again appealed for the government to be given time to deal with this problem.

Premier Fatos Nano then repeated once again the government's appeal to be given time to make mature rather than hasty decisions on increasing wages and associated problems. He called for deputies' support for this. The Assembly's proceedings are continuing.

Nano Addresses Assembly

AU1705202891 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 17 May 91

[Speech by Premier Fatos Nano to People's Assembly on 17 May—recorded]

[Text] On behalf of the government, I am expressing my appreciation of this Assembly session and the serious commitment with which it has considered important issues. While we continue our session here, however, the country's economic and political situation is extremely fraught and is reaching a highly critical point. The strike that started yesterday is assuming the proportions of a general strike. The economic crisis, which the government has confronted since its first day in office, is being exacerbated by the wave of strikes and all the consequences of those strikes. We expressed our concern from the start in the platform of the government. We are obliged by the votes that the people gave us as deputies and the difficult tasks with which we have been entrusted as a government to express this concern once again.

The strike has hit the most vital sectors of the economy, such as transportation of all kinds, oil, energy production in general, the ports, chrome, and some industries including the most vital services to the people. The demands submitted by the strikers are for increased wages, improved working and living conditions, and better bus service, and in some cases a demand for the identification of the Shkoder culprits has been added to these economic demands.

The government, from the day it obtained a vote of confidence, acquainted itself with the natural demands that were raised, and committed itself to considering them at once and at length, giving priority to the problem of wage increases. This problem is not a new one for us, because it is one of the issues being considered by the relevant commission formed to study this matter. The report of this commission was examined by the political parties at the meeting of the government with the Confederation of Free Trade Unions. The Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions did not reply to our appeal to take part in this meeting. The meeting decided that the problem of wage increases should be considered in the context of the entire economic reform, especially price reform, and should be resubmitted for discussion after a few days. The government demands that political forces and the trade unions

should, during this period, call on working people to continue work, trusting that the problems raised will be solved fairly.

As was stated in the Council of Ministers' statement yesterday, the general strike does not help alleviate the serious condition of the country, but on the contrary further exacerbates it and imposes hasty and ill-considered solutions with catastrophic consequences for the country. Strikes at the ports, on the railroads, and in the truck pools have brought to a halt the movement of cereals and other foodstuffs, creating an extremely serious situation for bread production in many districts of the country, especially in Kukes, Shkoder, Diber, Puke, etc., where reserves are only adequate for two days.

The reserves are at an especially critical level in the villages. The situation is deteriorating every day in other districts too. The transportation of fuel by rail has stopped, which paralyzes all the movements of motor vehicles. Coke is not being transported from the port, and this (?blockage) at the coke furnaces at Elbasan, if it is not solved immediately, will close the furnaces and cause economic damage to the tune of $30 million. The work stoppage at the oil wells similarly involves a danger of the ruin of the wells. There are similar difficulties in other sectors such as chrome, where $1 million dollars have been lost so far because of the work stoppage. I will not mention the great distress caused to citizens by the suspension of bus, communal, and retail services, and even funerals. Every deputy and citizen can complete the picture of the situation, especially because many leaders of executive bodies in the districts, committee chairmen, etc., have been [word indistinct] for many days.

The government has met every day, has sat until late, and is working on measures to prevent negative consequences as far as possible, laying down specific tasks for the ministries, the local state authorities, the authorities of the law and the forces of order to act to normalize the situation as much as possible. At the same time, the Council of Ministers appeals to political forces and the trade unions to dissociate themselves from illegal acts, because we have noticed that in a large proportion of cases the strikes have not taken place according to the provisions regulating their conduct. Let me call once again on all the deputies of this Assembly, as the people's highest representatives, to commit themselves fully to ending this catastrophic strike at once and, moreover, to support and help at every step the rigorous enforcement of the legislation on strikes. I assure you that the government's commitment in this matter will be total. Thank you.

Alia Appeals to People To End Strike

AU1805171391 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1600 GMT 18 May 91

[Appeal to the Albanian People by President Ramiz Alia; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Working people and citizens of Albania, brothers and sisters, our country is passing through one of its most difficult periods in recent decades. From the report submitted to the People's Assembly by the new government, it has emerged that the economic and social situation is burdened beyond all measure. Economic and political life is in a state of virtual paralysis. The control of the state and the law has weakened. The budget's financial deficit has exceeded all acceptable limits. There is a danger of failing to cover almost one half of the necessary expenditure for the economy and culture, if work and production does not resume immediately. Intolerable hotbeds of tension are continually being created that today threaten social peace and the safety of the people's lives. As we are all aware, in precisely this situation a general strike of working people has broken out on the initiative of two trade union organizations in the country, and has been continuing since the day before yesterday [16 May], even further obstructing production in a range of industrial centers.

I quite understand the circumstances that have forced the workers to go on strike. Their material difficulties are real, and nobody has the right to prejudge the workers. It is also true that the government has carried out a study to increase wages for all categories of workers and to regulate prices. I call on members of the government and trade unionists alike not to insist on their positions, but to embark on sincere discussion, to find points of contact, and to solve the problems together in the language of understanding. I do not think that the conflict has reached the level that makes an agreement between management and workers impossible.

The new government requires a minimum of time, support, and trust. Let us give it an opportunity, in the hope that it will find, in positive cooperation with the trade unions and all the country's political forces, a reasonable solution that will be acceptable to both sides, without posing the danger of a loss of state control on the issue of money, something that would be fatal.

The government has only just won the People's Assembly's vote of confidence, and must also work to show that it deserves the full confidence of the people.

I wish to remind you that if a climate for dialogue is seriously sought, intolerance must be abandoned at once. Understanding can be achieved by drawing closer to each other and by finding solutions that everybody can support. During these last two or three days, I have talked with various groups of trade unions from different districts of the country, representatives of the political parties, and the prime minister and other high-level government officials. I have asked them to make all possible efforts to reach an agreement, to protect working people from the serious consequences of the crisis as far as the country's conditions permit.

I also wish to make the same request directly to you, dear brothers and sisters, appealing to you to commit all your energies to taking control of the country. I make this appeal in the name of the unity of this people, who deserve fraternal coexistence and a better life. I issue an appeal to you all to cooperate for a single goal. We have learned tragic

lessons from the social tensions of recent times. Nobody in Albania wishes to face such things again. It is necessary to remember today what threatening dangers current political trends bode for our Albania. The situation around us has reached a critical point. As a country and a people, we are exposed to unexpected events that could bring a catastrophe upon us.

I call on you all to return to work, as the only way to rescue the country and preserve ourselves from disaster. Let us work, continue dialogue, and solve the problems of wages and prices in accordance with the country's opportunities today. Only in this way can we begin to hope more optimistically for a better future.

Unions Issue Statement; Vow To Continue Strike

AU1705190691 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] A statement issued by the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions [BSPSh] states, among other things, that the ruling bureaucracy forced us to use our final weapon—a strike. On 16 May 1991, more than 250,000 working people throughout the country put down their tools. Our exhausted economy was paralyzed. The government holds us responsible, forgetting that we will be the first to feel the direct consequences of this paralysis.

The government claims that it was not given time to solve the problems, but the demands over which we started our strike today were submitted more than one month ago. Three meetings have been held about them. The demands, the statement continues, were submitted by the BSPSh, but the government conducted the most important talks with the political parties and the Confederation of Free Trade Unions [Konfederata e Sindikatave te Lira] rather than with us.

The BSPSh did not agree to take part in the expanded meeting of the Council of Ministers, the statement continues, and it once again informs the public at home and abroad that the demands of 9 April 1991 were submitted to the government by the BSPSh. The first demand of the BSPSh has been and remains the appearance before the courts of the culprits for the tragic events in Shkoder. The BSPSh states that it faithfully and determinedly insists on its demands of 9 April, which it will not withdraw in the face of either pressure or state and party deception. The strike has begun and will continue until working people's demands are met.

Alia Receives Independent Trade Unionists

AU1705215391 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 2000 GMT 17 May 91

[Alfons Gurashi report]

[Text] President Ramiz Alia asked today to meet representatives of the Independent Albanian Trade Unions and leaders of the committees of the strikes that began yesterday and which assumed the proportions of a general strike today. Present at the meeting were (?Valer Gjeka), chairman of the Strike Committee; Gezim Shima, chairman of the Initiating Commission of the Independent Trade Unions; Ekrem Kavaja, member of the Managing Council; Gezim Kalaja, member of the Tirana Branch Committee; and Ferdinand (?Tomali), chairman of the Initiating Commission of the Independent Trade Unions of Shkoder and member of the National Commission.

President Ramiz Alia, expressing his concern at the extremely fraught economic and financial situation through which the country is passing, stressed that he considered the demands submitted to the government by the Strike Committee to be legitimate. I am not arguing with or criticizing the workers who submitted these demands. I say that anybody who thinks that way is seriously mistaken. He said that these demands, however, are closely connected with the currently very serious economic situation through which the country is passing. I do not in any way want to hide this from you.

In his talk, President Ramiz Alia focused especially on the budget deficit and the other financial difficulties that are a result of the failure of various economic bodies to function properly and of repeated interruptions of work in important and vital sectors, which have led our country's economy into many crises and difficulties. I, he stressed, am convinced that your demands and those of the workers who have gone on strike are fair economic demands, but I must tell you, and you must properly understand that, the current situation is very serious, highly serious, and dangerous. I tell you this as president, and I would especially wish people to be aware of it.

He expressed concern at the difficulties that are evident, and which will become more apparent if the strike continues, in the supply even of flour to various districts. He therefore asked the trade unionists to coordinate the workers' demands, which they are expressing and harmonizing as the workers' leaders, with the real possibilities of the economy and the country today. I ask you to work with a sense of dialogue and friendly discussion, whether with the government, the prime minister, or me, finding in this way the path of solution.

In this candid conversation, all the representatives of the trade unions taking part in the meeting expressed their concern at the extremely fraught economic situation that is reflected both in the low level of wages in general and the minimal working and living conditions. They especially criticized the government for not making the slightest effort to discuss these problems with them, let alone solve them. We, they say, hear it said that we now have a law-governed state, but, bringing the views of the people and the workers, we say we are dealing with a moldy bureaucracy.

During the conversation, they made comments and expressed views about many problems connected with the privatization of the economy, the exodus, workers' working conditions, and so on. In connection with privatization and the methods being followed, they expressed concern at the danger of managers and administrative employees enriching themselves, because it seems that in some cases they have been given the opportunity to tie themselves to foreign firms. They also expressed reservations about auctions as a form of privatization which, they said, does not benefit workers. Views were exchanged, and a debate was conducted on these and other problems.

The trade unionists then insisted on their demands, calling them fair and feasible, and stressing that they only expressed their minimal and essential demands. They linked them to the strike of the Bater miners, for which they held the managers responsible, because the miners had done the work for which they were paid without even buckets, shovels, means of transportation, and showers at the mine. They told the president that the culprits for the strike were saboteurs, and measures must be taken against them.

The representatives of the Independent Trade Unions said that under the conditions that we are submitting these demands, it is the duty of the government to take the lead in the situation, because we submitted these demands on 9 April.

In conclusion, they stressed that the position of the Independent Trade Unions is not the position of the political parties, because we oppose every party bureaucracy.

Throughout the discussion and at its conclusion, President Ramiz Alia stressed several times the necessity of solving these problems through dialogue, remembering not only the country's economic situation, but the situation through which we are passing. I am not prejudiced, he said, and so I am talking frankly with you. I have a duty that does not permit me to hide the country's situation and the concerns we have. We must steer clear of confrontation of any kind, and when I say this I am bearing in mind the situation throughout the country. I therefore call on you to solve all conflicts with dialogue and understanding. Talk again with the government, and try to find a path of solution. Direct your dialogue in the interests of workers in the first place, but also in the interests of the state.

President Ramiz Alia also met today at a separate meeting with a group of representatives of the strikers of the Independent Trade Unions of Elbasan and the Federation of the Railroad Transportation Trade Union of Durres. Here too, after listening to the demands and comments laid before him, the president talked about finding ways and solutions through dialogue with government.

Deputies Meet Independent Trade Unionists

AU1905144791 Tirana ATA in English 0924 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 19 (ATA)—Upon the initiative of the Presidency of People's Assembly and of the presidencies of the parliamentary groups, a meeting with representatives of the Union of the Albanian Independent Trade Unions from various districts of the country was organised from on May 18 at 1800 to May 19 at 0130. Attending were also members of the Steering Commission of this organisation and of The Steering Commission of the strike.

The representatives of the Union of the Albanian Independent Trade Unions, persisting in resolving the demands presented to the government, put forward their worries and problems. Regarding these problems the parliamentarians gave their opinion.

Effects of General Strike in Districts Reported

AU1705224291

[Editorial Report] Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian at 1800 GMT on 17 May devotes six minutes of its 30-minute newscast to reports on the extent of the general strike in different districts of the country.

The announcer states that a report from the Fier District Executive Committee states that "many enterprises in the district are still on strike. Not a single passenger or freight train has arrived at Fier station. The truck fleet has stopped work, apart from trucks transporting flour. The oil enterprises of Seqishte and (?Mareze) are continuing work, except for some sectors."

The announcer states that in Korce, "Those sectors involving the supply of the people with food and electricity, the water works, and the bakery are continuing to work, while workers did not appear for work at all at other enterprises of the mining industry, light industry, and road transportation."

A correspondent's report from Shkoder states: "The Shkoder branch of the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions expressed its solidarity with the announcement of a national general strike. As a result, work has stopped entirely in production and service enterprises, city and interurban transportation, rail passenger and freight transportation, and so on. At the request of the Independent Trade Unions' Strike Committee, work is continuing in certain vital sectors such as electricity and water supply, the health service, flour, bread, and milk production, meat and oil distribution, milking in agricultural enterprises, and the retail sector. In solidarity with the strike committee, classes were not held in many of the district's primary and secondary schools. Dozens of people working for private retail traders and craftsmen also joined the strike."

The announcer states that "Many enterprises have also stopped work in Kukes District. Workers in passenger

and freight transportation, the Kalimash miners, and construction workers did not appear for work, nor did workers at the Assorted Products Enterprise, who have been on strike for several days."

Telephone reports also report on the strike situation in Gjirokaster, Librazhd, and Puke. In Gjirokaster, 72 construction workers are reported on strike. The Librazhd correspondent stresses the economic successes of the local mines in May, but states that "the truck and railroad workers have now gone on strike." In Puke District, "many important enterprises" are reported on strike, including workers at three mines. While "essential services" are reportedly unaffected, "the situation is deteriorating," and "employees of the Executive Committee have gone to strikers to explain to them the difficult situation through which our economy is passing."

'Thousands' Hold Peaceful Demonstration in Tirana

AU1805132691 Tirana ATA in English 1221 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 18 (ATA)—On May 18, between 1000-1130, thousands of workers, miners, metallurgists, textile workers, mechanics, railway workers, drivers, typographers as well as workers of other professions of the enterprises and institutions in the capital staged a peaceful manifestation in support of their demands forwarded to the government on April 9.

They were carrying posters and constantly launching slogans, such as: "Freedom, democracy;" "We Want Albania Like Europe;" "No More Promises;" "Meet Our Demands;" "Respect Our Work and Toil;" "Let Us Uproot Bureaucracy;" "We Are Determined To Win;" "Shkoder's Killers to the Court;" "The World Trade Unions Are With Us;" etc.

The manifestation was staged conforming to the legal provisions in power. The forces of order maintained law and order. The participants in this manifestation were dispersed peacefully to their enterprises and families.

Meanwhile, the strike continues.

Details Reported; 300,000 on Strike

AU1805155591

[Editorial Report] Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian at 1330 GMT on 18 May devotes 10 minutes of its regular 30-minute newscast to a report prepared by Timo Luto and Sokol Perihati on a workers' demonstration in Tirana on 18 May.

Against a background of demonstrators shouting largely indistinct slogans, including: Increase Pay, Luto states: "The general strike that has now spread to every district in the country has drawn the attention of the entire people. By yesterday, about 280,000 working people in different sectors had joined the strike, and their number is increasing. The strike broke out as a result of the expiring 15 May deadline for a government reply to the demands submitted by the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions [BSPSh] on 9 April. The demands include the culprits for the murders in the city of Shkoder appearing before the courts, a 50 percent wage increase, improved working conditions, etc. The strike is now in its third day and has paralyzed many vital sectors of the economy. This is the third day that all forms of transportation, mines, the oil sector, and other enterprises has been paralyzed. It is also the second day on which no newspaper has appeared. The meeting of President Ramiz Alia with strike leaders from different districts yielded no result. Today, a meeting with the government will be held. The situation is highly disturbing and with serious consequences for the economy. The strikers are determined to continue the strike until their demands are met.

"As part of the strike, tens of thousands of workers from the capital city assembled at 1000 this morning to express their determination to continue this strike. Representatives from other districts also took part in the demonstration as well as the strike committee. The demonstrators held aloft many placards reading, Shkoder murderers before the courts; Meet our demands; Trade unions demand justice; Enough of empty promises; and other slogans. Students of engineering and construction shouted slogans of solidarity from the windows of their dormitory halls. A group of journalists surrounded (?Vangjel Gjeka), chairman of the Strike Committee."

A recording of a Sokol Perihati interview with Strike Committee chairman (?Gjeka) follows. (?Gjeka) states: "This rally is being held to express once again the workers' determination for the total fulfillment of all the demands they have placed before the government." "Thousands and thousands of workers from all the enterprises and institutions of Tirana are taking part." Asked whether the strike has a deadline, (?Gjeka) states: "Our strike is indefinite, and we are resolved, as is clear from all the telegrams that arrive every day and every hour, that this strike will continue until our demands are met." "Dozens of collectives are joining our general strike." (?Gjeka) states that the number of strikers has reached 300,000 and is still increasing. Asked about the blocking of the transportation of food and of coke supplies to the Elbasan steelworks, (?Gjeka) states: "Many members of the government and even parliamentary deputies have accused us of obstructing the supply of bread to the people in the north. This is not true. The trade union is fully committed to preventing any food shortages, whether in the north or anywhere else. We have taken measures today in cooperation with district strike committees to ensure flour supplies from the port of Durres or wherever they may be found, so that there will be no difficulty. As for the coking furnaces at Elbasan, where serious problems have arisen, we have taken measures to dispatch 30 trucks from Elbasan to be loaded with coke. This is being organized by the strike

committees in Durres and Elbasan. I wish to emphasize once again that all the difficulties in supplying the people with bread and the enterprises with raw materials are not a result of the strike but of the bureaucratic attitudes of the administration."

Asked about the trade unionists' meeting with Alia, (?Gjeka) states: "The president expressed his own view of the strike, and called our demands legitimate, but appealed to us to bear in mind the situation the country is facing. He nevertheless left it in the trade unions' hands to decide themselves what they think is most reasonable and appealed for a start to discussions with government. We expressed our readiness to talk with the government, although we also expressed to the president our view that the government has persisted in a bureaucratic attitude toward our demands and has not considered them seriously."

Luto then states: "A statement by the BSPSh was read at the demonstration, which stressed among other things that this strike does not have a political nature, but is purely economic. It clearly voiced the demands placed before the government and emphasized a determination to continue the strike until these demands are met.

"The workers taking part in the demonstration then set out to demonstrate in the streets of Tirana. They arrived at the city's ring road and Congress of Permet Street. The miners of Tirana led the demonstration, followed by workers from other enterprises. The procession was long and no end to it could be seen. The inhabitants of the capital watched from their windows and balconies and many others filled the sidewalks. Shouting slogans explaining the strike's purpose, the demonstrators passed in front of the National Museum and entered the boulevard, proceeding to the railroad station. The demonstration ended here, having taken place calmly and without a single incident."

Police Cite Violations at Rallies

AU1805200891 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The Tirana public order forces state that violations of the decree on gatherings, assemblies, and manifestations of citizens in public places occurred during the demonstration held at the request of the Initiating Commission of the Union of Independent Albanian Trade Unions on 18 May 1991. At the head of the column and in other sections of it, participants carried placards that had not been approved and shouted slogans that were not on the program and were not in accordance with the demonstration's declared aims. Those responsible for this will be answerable to the law. The forces of order have drawn these violations to the attention of the trade unions, also pointing out how such occasions may be organized in accordance with the law.

Bulqize Miners End Strike; Write to Alia, Nano

AU1805140391 Tirana ATA in English 1216 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 18 (ATA)—The Trade Union Councils of Bulqize mines, the Independent Trade Union Federation of the geological-upgrading mines of Albania, have sent a message to Comrades Ramiz Alia and Fatos Nano which says among others:

Proceeding from the realistic assessment of the grave economic situation, we, the miners of Bulqize mines, led by the Trade Union Council of the enterprise, decided on May 17 to suspend the strike and resume work.

This was achieved in agreement with the Independent Trade Union Federation of the geological-upgrading mines of Albania. Indeed numerous are our demands and worries and till now many of them are not met, but being aware of the deep economic crisis the country is in, we considered with priority the all national interests and therefore resumed work.

We are not for general strikes, as the Independent Trade Union has appealed, because they would go heavy on the economy, leading it towards catastrophe. We are for setting down to work and resolving our matters while the work goes on. Proceeding from the fact that the newly created government is facing numerous and complicated problems, we appeal to the other working people of the economy to resume work because it is to the benefit of the country and above all of our children.

We are convinced that our natural and legitimate, simply economic demands, without any political color, will not remain in the hands of the bureaucracy of the apparatuses of respective institutions but will be gradually resolved by the government, which will give way to them through more energetic and concrete actions. This demand the rapid unblocking of the state activity.

PDSh Protests Suspension of Assembly Session

AU1805194091 Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian 1800 GMT 18 May 91

[Editorial Report] Tirana Radio Tirana Network in Albanian at 1800 GMT on 18 May devotes five minutes of its extended 40-minute newscast to a Zamire Koleci report on the day's proceedings of the People's Assembly, and a statement by the Democratic Party's [PDSh] legislative group on the suspension of the session.

After reporting on the People's Assembly's election of the chairmen, deputy chairmen, and secretaries of the Assembly's permanent commissions, Koleci states: "At this point, the president of the Presidency (Kastriot Islami), suggesting a procedure for the next item on the agenda, the approval of the decrees issued by the Presidium of the People's Assembly, said that the draft decrees will be distributed to the commissions on Monday (20 May), and that after the

commissions have prepared their respective reports, deputies will be informed about the resumption of the Assembly's proceedings.

"Deputy Azem Hajdari then took the floor, expressing the view that the Assembly should not interrupt its proceedings in the next few days, but should be at the people's disposal and should seek information from the government, which is entrusted with the task of conducting dialogue with the trade unions. The president of the Presidency said that we will all urgently meet if the government feels our presence is necessary. Sali Berisha then insisted that deputies should not merely answer to the needs of the government, but to the requirements of which they themselves are aware as an assembly and which involve the situation and the responsibilities they bear. A sitting assembly is a factor of stability in the deep crisis that Albania is experiencing at every hour, he concluded.

The president of the Presidency declared the session closed and summoned the chairmen of the legislative groups to a meeting. The Assembly will resume its proceedings in a plenary session after the permanent commissions finish their meetings."

The announcer then states: "A statement by the PDSh's legislative group has reached the radio and television, which states that the indefinite interruption of the Assembly's proceedings in an arbitrary manner is not only an unjustified step but also damages the country's stability. At a time when the government and the other state bodies are charged by the Assembly with the task of solving as soon as possible the acute problems and fair demands expressed in the general strike, the lawmaking body should be in permanent session and should play its role properly. The statement stresses that any decision that may be made by other state bodies in matters within the Assembly's competence is illegal, as is any other decision that requires the Assembly's approval."

People's Assembly Elects Commission Chairmen

AU1905144591 Tirana ATA in English 0900 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 19 (ATA)—On May 18 before noon the People's Assembly continued its proceedings with the election of the presidencies of the permanent commissions of the People's Assembly. Following the meetings of the commissions, their presidencies were declared: the Commission of Laws, chairman Petraq Curri; the Commission on Defending the Human Rights and Freedoms of the Ethnic Minorities, chairman Ahmet Kamberi; the Commission of Budget, Treasury and Finances, chairman Qemal Disha; the Commission of Economic Programme, Labour and Social Assistance, chairman Gramoz Pashko; the Commission of Industry, Mines and Energy and other Productive Activities, chairman Thoma Angjellari; the Commission of Agriculture and Nutrition, chairman Sulejman Pepa; the Commission for the Massive Communication Means, chairman Mehmet Loci; the Commission of Town Planning and Constructions, chairman Emin Musliu; the Commission of Foreign Policy and International Relations, chairman Xhelil Gjoni; the Commission of Transport, PTT [Posts, Telegraph, and Telecommunications], chairman Xhemal Gazidede; the Commission of Education and Science, chairman Menduh Derguti; the Commission of Culture, Arts and Sports, chairman Dritero Agolli; the Commission of Trade, Foreign Economic Relations and of Tourism, chairman Mitro Cela; the Commission of Health, Environmental Protection and Public Services, chairman Tritan Shehu; the Commission of Defence, Protection of Public Order and of the Country's Security, chairman Baki Shehu; the Commission of the Control of Investments, Legislation of Joint Enterprises and Privatization, chairman Napolon Mertiraj; and the Commission on the Socioeconomic Problems of the Countryside, chairman Pellumb Seferi. The vice-chairmen and secretaries of these commissions were likewise elected.

At this, today's proceedings closed. The presidencies of the Permanent Commissions of the People's Assembly will meet on 20 May.

Government Issues Statement on Price Increases

AU2005134091 Tirana ATA in English 1218 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 20 (ATA)—Today before noon, written papers have been distributed informing the increase of the prices of bread, sugar, oil and other agricultural products soon.

On this occasion, the Press and Information Department at the Council of Ministers deems it necessary to make the following explanation:

The Council of Ministers together with the trade unions is discussing and judging together on adopting the necessary decisions with regard to the reform of prices and wages, decisions which will be made publicly known these days. We inform the citizens that every change of prices will be compensated completely with the increase of the wages and pensions, so that the purchasing power of the working people not only be not affected, but further increased. Therefore, the news spread today on unilateral price rising are baseless. No decision on this matter will enter into force without making publicly known the necessary explanations and without being accompanied with strict measures to ban specualtions in the market to the detriment of the consumers.

Nano, Kapllani Meet Italian, Vatican Officials

AU1605233891 Tirana ATA in English 1806 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Tirana, May 16 (ATA)—On May 16, Fatos Nano, Albanian premier, met with the chairman of the Foreign Commission of the Italian Parliament, Flaminio Piccoli. In the course of the talk they spoke on the cooperation

between the two parliaments and their contribution to the development of the all-sided relations between the two countries.

The talk passed in a friendly atmosphere. Attending the meeting was also the foreign minister, Muhamet Kapllani. Present was also Dashnor Dervishi, Albanian ambassador in Rome.

On May 15, the under secretary of state of the Vatican, Monsignor Claudio Celli, had a private meeting in the Vatican with the premier of the Republic of Albania, Fatos Nano.

Attending the talk held on this occasion was also the foreign minister, Muhamet Kapllani. Monsignor Celli appreciated the first contacts of his visit to Albania and wished that they lead to the normalization of relations between the Holy Seat and Albania. He wished the Albanian people and nation harmony and social peace for the good of the development of Albania and stability in the region.

Premier Fatos Nano spoke of the importance of freedom of exercising religious faith, in the context of the process of democratization in Albania and said that Albania is joining the positive European processes, preserving its cultural and spiritual values.

The meeting was also attended by the Albanian ambassador in Rome, Dashnor Dervishi.

BSP Council's Viewpoint on Privatization

AU2005091991 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian
15 May 91 pp 1, 6

["Viewpoint of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party on Conversion of State and Municipal Property and Privatization of State Enterprises," Sofia, 6 May 1991]

[Text] The Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] attaches primary importance to the problems connected with implementing the economic reform in Bulgaria. Changing the economic system also requires a transformation in ownership relations. Otherwise, one cannot even think of developing a mixed market economy in which all forms of ownership are on an equal footing before the law and develop in accordance with their economic efficiency, which is proved under the conditions of free market competition.

At the present stage of our economic development, denationalization and privatization are objective necessities. Today, our country faces grave problems, caused by the ills of total state ownership and the command-administrative management of the economy. During the difficult postwar years the mobilization and centralization of national resources helped to resolve the complex problems of industrialization and economic growth. However, the economic system built up in Bulgaria distorted and discredited public ownership, alienated millions of people from labor and management, and destroyed citizens' economic initiative and interest. In transforming ownership relations and the forms of ownership, they must be brought into the state of natural balance that is characteristic of every modern society.

The BSP believes that denationalization, if carried out in a democratic spirit, does not run counter to socialist ideas. **Privatization, by drawing the millions of working people toward ownership, offers real opportunities for establishing in reality the true socialist values of freedom, justice, and solidarity.** The conversion of state ownership and the privatization of production facilities **do not form an end in themselves, but a means** of achieving some of the main goals of the economic reform, which are:

1. To create conditions for the country's speedy emergence from the crisis, for reviving the economy, and for increasing the efficiency of production as a natural basis for national prosperity.

2. To turn the broadest sections of the population into owners and co-owners of means of production, who directly appropriate part of the added product for their own use and who are personally interested in the results of their labor.

3. To develop a mixed market economy in which private, cooperative, joint stock, municipal, and state enterprises function and develop, competing among themselves in accordance with market laws common for all.

4. To radically reform public ownership and the public sector in the economy, to change it from an opposing factor into a natural component of the market mechanism.

The BSP considers that, even following the elimination of the present state ownership monopoly in the Bulgarian economy, a substantial public sector will continue to function. In every modern society, this forms the material basis of national and regional policy and of the state's regulating influence upon economic life. In our own conditions, the transformation of the state sector of the economy presupposes that the state services quickly divest themselves of their direct participation in the organization and management of production, and that the state enterprises are fully established as independently functioning market entities. The experience of many economically developed countries shows that this process must be combined with the development of a system of state shareholding ownership and state economic regulation through market, tax, and credit mechanisms.

The BSP fully realizes that in the present conditions of severe economic crisis the realization of the above strategic goals will be a difficult and extremely complex task. The process of transforming state ownership and the privatization of some of the state enterprises may give rise to a number of unfavorable consequences for the workers—unemployment, insecurity, and a substantial property differentiation between the owners of means of production and their hired workers. **For this reason the BSP will continue in the future to insist upon a reasonable and tolerable price for the transition to the new economic system, a price that is fairly distributed among the different social groups.**

However, this price may prove to be intolerable and unfair if the neo-conservative model of privatization is realized that is so actively being publicized by right-wing political circles in Bulgaria. The total, uncontrolled, and self-justifying privatization that they propose bodes nothing good for either the country or the ordinary Bulgarian. The latter is allotted the role of a powerless observer, who watches while a narrow privileged section of the population, connected with speculative and foreign capital, concentrates the whole of the country's economic power in its hands. This concept of privatization blatantly serves the narrow party and narrow ownership interests of those right-wing parties and leaders for whom the big property owners' class forms their natural social environment and natural support.

The neo-conservative privatization scenario also lies at the basis of the insistent claims for the return of the buildings and enterprises nationalized after 1944, for the handover to the former owners of a considerable proportion of the improvements and extensions made to the property, and for the payment of lost interest, profits, and other monies to the former owners.

The BSP does not deny that it is necessary to compensate citizens who have suffered unjustly as a result of the total, forced, and irresponsible state expropriation of property four decades ago. As in the other Eastern European countries, this should be done along the lines of partial compensation in the form of shares or bonds, not money or property. The restitution of nationalized property would be a grave injustice for the thousands of working people who for years on end preserved and multiplied this property, and who even today rely on it for their economic survival.

In the BSP's view, the labor of several generations of Bulgarians is the main source of the substantial stock of production facilities that the country now has at its disposal. The people of Bulgaria are the real creators of our national wealth, and it is the Bulgarian citizens who have the right to become its future owners. The state is the present legal owner of this property, and accordingly the state should give priority opportunities to the members of the civic society to participate in the privatization, and should grant them certain guarantees and advantages over foreign juridical and natural persons. In the economy's present grave state, with the enterprises suffering financial difficulties, with unjustified and temporary exchange rates for the Bulgarian lev against convertible currencies, and with the low degree of capitalization, the uncontrolled and unrestricted admission of foreign capital into the processes of privatization harbors a real danger of our losing our economic sovereignty as a nation. The state has the duty to control and limit this process, in the defense of national economic interests. Naturally, the restrictions should not extend to foreign investments connected with new construction and technological reequipment and with opening up new jobs and markets, which should receive all possible incentives and allowances.

The BSP stands for a democratic alternative in privatization, for giving real economic power to the Bulgarian people, and for a social market economy that has proved its advantages. Even at the stage of initial distribution, the social and public-interest elements that are characteristic of contemporary private ownership should be embodied. The controlling group of shares for the Bulgarian economy should be handed to the ordinary working people. **The combination of labor and property is the economic foundation of people's power, the real alternative to unemployment, the necessary prerequisite for social justice, and the most reliable guarantee against extreme, conflict-provoking property differentiation. The BSP will firmly and consistently defend this principle.** Socially tried and tested schemes and mechanisms for denationalization and privatization should be properly reflected in the legislation covering selling, disposing of, and converting state enterprises and their assets.

What does this mean in practice?

1. **The BSP will defend and establish the democratic nature of the privatization process.** The conversion of state property is a nationwide issue. This issue must be decided in conditions of full glasnost and under permanent public control; in accordance with the interests of the workers, labor collectives, trade unions, and all social groups; and with the help of the nation's entire intellectual potential. The stages, rate of progress, scope, and objects of the "small" and "big" privatization; linking these up with the general logic of the economic reform, the system of national economic priorities, and the integrated economic environment; the ways to attract foreign investments and protect the domestic producer; and the methods of valuing production facilities should be determined on a sound legal and program basis by a competent, independent, and impartial state services working under the direct control of the National Assembly and in closest liaison with the labor collectives and trade unions.

The BSP is against "bureaucratic privatization" implemented "from above," by an inner circle, by means of purely administrative decisions and without the necessary public support. No administrative, nonmarket privileges should be allowed in the privatization process. The BSP insists on reliable barriers against corruption and on legal guarantees against using illegal incomes for participation in privatization.

2. **The BSP will defend the right of every Bulgarian citizen, irrespective of his or her property situation, to take part in the privatization of the state property built up by their labor and by the labor of several generations of Bulgarians.**

Through bonds, vouchers, or other forms, the Bulgarian citizens should obtain priority access to the processes of privatization. At the initial stage of denationalization, a considerable proportion of the property due to be privatized should be distributed in this way, on the basis of fair criteria.

3. **The BSP will defend the labor nature of property, and the right of every worker to become owner of the tools and results of his labor.**

Present and former members of labor collectives should be given the opportunity to acquire, on the easiest possible terms, a guaranteed proportion of the shares (portions) in their enterprise and to pay for them on deferred terms out of the dividends.

If the labor collectives themselves so desire, they should be granted an opportunity to purchase under favorable conditions the whole of the plants or facilities in which they work. The maximum possible use should be made of opportunities to convert present state enterprises into cooperatives of the citizens employed in them. Nationalized cooperative property should be returned to the relevant collectives.

Tax concessions should be provided for companies that carry out programs to expand the participation of workers and employees in company ownership.

4. The BSP will campaign to ensure that all social groups, especially the socially disadvantaged sections of the population, participate in property ownership and the income therefrom.

In the form of shares, part of the present state property should be handed over to social, pension, and health insurance funds. This will also be an important step in the reorganization of social welfare in accordance with the requirements of the market economy.

5. The BSP will insist on separating municipal from state property, on building up a strong economic basis for local self-government, and on overcoming the municipalities' absolute financial dependence on the center.

The restoration of municipal ownership of the means of production should be combined with the extension of the municipalities' rights to carry out economic activity and conduct an independent economic and tax policy.

6. The BSP considers that the funds received from privatization should be used to resolve the most serious economic and social problems at the transitional stage that most strongly affect the ordinary Bulgarian.

Special attention should be paid to the financing of social programs—combating unemployment, opening up new jobs, and retraining workers.

Some of the funds received from privatization should be allocated to cover the domestic debt, to lighten the tax burden on companies, to make special-purpose state investments, and so on.

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The viewpoint of the BSP Supreme Council on converting the present state property, denationalization, and privatization of production facilities is principled and long-term in nature. During the drafting of the relevant legal basis, the BSP will seek to cooperate and reach constructive compromises with all political forces, trade unions, and other social organizations—in the interest of the ordinary working man and of national prosperity.

DUMA Report on Zhelev Favoring SDS Denied

AU1605111491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0935 GMT 16 May 91

[Statement by Presidency Spokesman Valentin Stoyanov in Sofia; date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] In connection with the report published in today's issue of DUMA under the tendentious heading "President Descends to Party Level," I am authorized to announce the following:

Yesterday's meeting took place at the request of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS]. The president of the Republic did not make a speech, but acquainted the SDS with his assessment of the political situation in the country. There is no truth in DUMA's assertion that the president was to make an official appeal to SDS sympathizers.

It will be interesting to see what headline DUMA will use for the report on President Zhelev's meeting with the legislative group of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP]. This meeting was supposed to take place today, but at the request of the BSP legislative group has been postponed until next week.

President Zhelev has proved on many occasions that he is the head of state of the whole of Bulgaria. The attempts by certain forces to distort this truth is also an insult to those BSP deputies whose votes brought about Dr. Zhelev's election as president of the Republic.

Move to Dissolve Assembly; New Accord Reached

AU1905195591 Sofia BTA in English 1931 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 19 (BTA)—The National Conference of the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) [SDS] today backed up the group of 43 radical-minded MP's who walked out of parliament on May 14.

The representatives of 230 provincial organization of the UDF adopted a special decision on the strength of which the MP's of the UDF who stayed in parliament are delegated the task to move for immediate dissolution of parliament on May 21 or May 22. If Socialist majority does not accept this necessity which the whole people has realized, the MP's of the UDF should walk out of parliament and should not return before a date for new parliamentary elections is set. If a day is fixed for holding new parliamentary elections, all MP's of the UDF will go back to parliament to carry through a new election bill and the bills that are required by the reform.

It was decided that a new agreement of the 19 parties and organizations in the opposition coalition should be drafted by the end of this month. The agreement should give guarantees that there will be no party biases and no quotas in nominating the candidates who will run in the elections. The agreement should settle yet another issue which has been much debated within the opposition of late. It will proclaim the unification of all forces that stand for the replacement of the system into an open Union of Democratic Forces Movement. But the leaders of the influential Social Democratic Party, the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party, the Green Party and the Ecoglasnost Movement did not sign the decision. The conference was a stormy one and although the decision points out that the unity of the opposition coalition is a necessary condition for winning the elections, it is difficult to say whether its adoption will put an end to the dispute between the moderates and the radicals in the UDF.

Memorandum on Popov, Pavlov Talks Reported

AU1805183891 Sofia BTA in English 1730 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 18 (BTA)—Today Bulgaria's Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and the delegation led by him returned from Moscow where they paid a visit at the invitation of Mr. Valentin Pavlov, prime minister of the USSR.

Mr. Popov was received by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He had talks with Soviet Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov and with Mr. Ivan Silayev, prime minister of Russia.

It is pointed out in the memorandum on the talks between the government leaders of Bulgaria and the USSR that both countries attach great importance to the improvement of the contractual and legal basis of their relations and to the working out of a new interstate treaty which should be in line with the new realities and should take into account the "positive traditions in Bulgarian-Soviet cooperation."

The document reflects the desire expressed by the two sides to activate the trade between the two countries, to solve all other economic problems in their relations, to find a form of regulating their payments and to overcome the difficulties in their cooperation in culture, science and education. Early dates are set for settling concrete problems which suggests that results should be expected not later than in the second half of this year.

The two countries will seek to realize mutual deliveries included not only in this year's indication lists of trade, it is their desire to expand them considerably. The Bulgarian side pointed out that Bulgaria could supply goods amounting to more than one billion dollars and this offer was received with interest.

The possibility of recalculating the Soviet transferable roubles debt to Bulgaria so that the latter can acquit its dollar debt to Soviet overseas banks was considered in a light favourable for Bulgaria.

Among the topics discussed at the talks was the trade in farming machines and communication equipment, what arrangements should be made to secure the production of Bulgarian cigarettes in the USSR, what Bulgaria's participation in the construction of joint projects on Soviet territory would be. Bulgaria's desire to continue in one or another form the cooperation in lumbering in Komi was not ignored. Negotiations will be held on the construction of a transit USSR-Greece gas mainline that will pass through Bulgarian territory.

Further on Popov's Talks

AU1805140991 Sofia BTA in English 2334 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Moscow, May 17 (BTA)—Today Bulgaria's Prime Minister Mr. Dimitur Popov was received by Soviet President Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev and handed him a personal message from the president of Bulgaria, Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev.

Judging by the statement Mr. Popov made after the meeting, he is encouraged by the discussion he had with Mr. Gorbachev, who showed goodwill and understanding for the problems facing Bulgaria.

At the talks which Mr. Popov had with Soviet Prime Minister Mr. Valentin Pavlov, the former clearly formulated Bulgaria's demands for an end to the stagnation and devastation of Bulgaro-Soviet relations, of which it is Bulgaria that is affected the most. The question was raised of a transitional period in bilateral relations, including clearing trade and a bank agreement instead of the hard-currency payments at world prices, required as from the beginning of this year.

According to the Soviet prime minister, the decline in the economic relations between Bulgaria and the Soviet Union is due to the lack of mutual understanding, to errors, the unprofessional handling and the irresponsibility of decision-makers before Mr. Pavlov and Mr. Popov's time. The Soviet deliveries of energy sources to Bulgaria and the participation of Bulgarian workers in the Soviet lumbering industry were also discussed at the meeting.

The sides exchanged the drafts of a new Bulgarian-Soviet treaty which is to replace the previous one signed in 1967.

According to Mr. Asen Geshakov, Bulgarian television correspondent in Moscow, despite the atmosphere of mutual understanding it did not became quite clear how far the Soviet side is prepared not to seek a linkage of the reactivation period in bilateral economic relations with certain clauses in the future treaty. Mr. Geshakov said that the protocol officials and the Kremlin security guards were rather rude to the Bulgarian journalists on assignment to cover the event. The newsmen were only allowed to see the photo-opportunity handshakes.

Mr. Popov conferred with Mr. Ivan Silayev, prime minister of Russia. A Bulgarian-Russian economic agreement will be ready for signing within ten days.

After today's meetings with the Soviet leadership, Prime Minister Popov said he was optimistic about the future of Bulgarian-Soviet relations. He told the Bulgarian journalists that Bulgaria's willingness to reactivate bilateral economic cooperation, which is in an alarming state, had met with the understanding of the Soviet side.

Poll Shows Fall in Approval of Legislature

AU1805212191 Sofia BTA in English 1921 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 18 (BTA)—The number of Bulgarians who do not approve of the country's parliament is growing. This is evident from the results of a public

opinion poll held by the National Opinion Poll Centre which were announced on the national television this evening.

Forty percent of the respondents maintain that parliament should dissolve itself, 40 percent declared they were against it, 20 percent expressed no opinion.

If new elections are held, the opposition Union of Democratic Forces would poll 32 percent of the vote, 25 percent would vote for the Bulgarian Socialist Party, 10 percent—for the Bulgarian Agrarian Party, 8 percent for the Movement for Rights and Freedoms.

The p?pularity of the Presidency in general and of President Zhelev in particular is growing: He is approved by 72 percent of the respondents.

The work of the Bulgarian Government is approved by 59 percent of the respondents. Mr. Ivan Kostov, minister of finance, still leads the popularity list.

According to the public opinion poll 78 percent of the Bulgarians stand for the Republic, 8 percent want Bulgaria to be a monarchy.

Almost 30 percent of the Bulgarians are afraid to voice their opinions. This question has not been on the opinion poll questionnaires since last May, this percentage, however, has remained unchanged.

National Assembly Passes New Business Act

AU1705112991 Sofia BTA in English 1012 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Sofia, May 17 (BTA)—The Bulgarian parliament passed the Business Act yesterday.

It is a serious step towards the liquidation of the so-called socialist economy and the establishment of a market economy. The new Business Act is one of the key acts of the economic reform and is of an enormous political importance according to experts.

Bulgaria had a rather good Business Act (1897) which reproduced the German law merchant. Its repealing in 1950 juridically brought to an end the Bulgarian liberal economy.

The new Business Act draws largely on the old one and is supplemented with modern principles of the law merchant of Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Spain. Bulgarian lawyers took into consideration recommendations by the European Community regarding the expected integration in 1992.

The Business Act defines the status of economic units in this country as commercial subjects, the status of trading companies and corporations, their functioning and interrelations. It provides the legal regulations for the transformation of the enterprises in the process of denationalization.

All state and private companies and enterprises should reregister on the basis of the Business Act. The act lays down more detailed regulations on sole proprietorship companies. It contains extensive provisions for the registration of trading companies. The act dwells on all kinds of companies.

Only cooperatives and cooperative societies fall out of the scope of the Business Act. They belong to a Bulgarian tradition dating back to 1907 when the first Cooperative Act was worked out.

The Business Act pays special attention to limited liability companies, small-and medium-size companies, which are the mainstays of Bulgaria's economic system.

The regulations concerning joint-stock companies are based on tradition and the latest achievements of company law, mainly that of Germany.

The Business Act automatically repeals many clauses of the now operative Basic Economic Act—Decree 56—which was passed only a few years ago but is quite outdated now. The remaining part of the decree will operate until the passage of Books Two and Three of the Business Act. Judging by the political developments in this country however, they will be passed by the next parliament.

Experts are not overestimating the importance of the Business Act. It is the "pillar of Bulgaria's new economic system." But it must be further supported by the Foreign Investment Act and the Privatization Act. Another package of acts is also necessary: on securities, stock exchanges, the National Bank, the banking and credit systems, and taxes.

Radioactive Liquid Spills at Nuclear Power Plant

LD1705171491 Prague CTK in English 1639 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Prague May 17 (CTK)—On May 12, 100 litres of a potassium chromate/potassium dichromate solution leaked onto the floor of the reactor hall in the A1 nuclear power plant in Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, the Czechoslovak Nuclear Energy Commission (CSKAE) told CTK today.

The Jaslovske Bohunice plant has been shut down since 1977.

The commission's nuclear safety inspector said the incident took place as the result of a mistake made by plant personnel while draining a tank filled with the radioactive solution.

The incident was classified as third degree on the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Ines scale of zero to seven. In IAEA terminology, degrees one to three are designated as "incidents" while four to seven is considered an "accident". Czechoslovakia is required to announce publicly all incidents of second degree and up.

None of the personnel on-duty were radiated during the incident, and no radioactive material leaked out of the plant building. The cause of the incident is being investigated by the CSKAE's nuclear security inspector.

Czech Prime Minister on Talks With Yeltsin

LD1805105591 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart has granted us an interview on the prospects of cooperation with the Russian Federation:

[Begin Pithart recording] We talked in very concrete terms on the territory of the Czech government with Mr. Yeltsin. We resumed the talks we held in Moscow at the beginning of March. Perhaps it is obvious from what I said that the talks were very difficult, above all, on the level of the Union. We may have achieved a lot, but Mr. Yeltsin says that it is a bare minimum, a necessary minimum, that we must go much further, that the USSR and Russia, in particular, are in dire need of our goods, so it appears that we will not have to fear the worst, which would be a disintegration of the Soviet market that would lead to more than 400,000 unemployed—that is how we figured it out. So they need our goods, and during the meeting separate talks were held by the appropriate ministers—experts—who agreed how to accelerate things. I also had the opportunity, obviously quite an exceptional opportunity in the history of this country, to offer Mr. Yeltsin one million tonnes of grain for the Russian Republic, that is 800,000 tonnes of wheat and 200,000 tonnes of bread rye. Mr. Yeltsin clapped his hands and immediately interrupted the dinner and we started discussing the details of when, how, and how much. Naturally, for world prices; that is, for hard currency or for oil, which in our case boils down to the same thing. We also offered 70,000 tonnes of beef, and I do not neet to stress how that was welcomed. We have a surplus of beef now, and that is why we now have a surplus of grain, because we are limiting stocks of cattle. [end recording]

Carnogursky Returns to Bratislava From SFRY

LD1905114191 Prague CTK in English 2348 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bratislava May 17 (CTK)—Despite signs of a constitutional crisis in Yugoslavia, the Slovak delegation's two-day visit (May 16-17) to the country was successful, Slovak Premier Jan Carnogursky told CTK today.

Carnogursky returned to Bratislava this evening after attending a session of the working group of Danubian regions in Belgrade and visits to the Republics of Serbia and Croatia for talks focusing mainly on expanding trade and other economic activity.

He noted that Slovakia has been active in the association of Danubian regions' working groups for some time already—on the commission charged with preparing for the Vienna-Budapest World's Fair, for instance—despite the fact that it was accepted as a full member only yesterday.

Carnogursky said the Serbian republic's proposal for an agreement on economic, cultural, educational and vocational cooperation would be realised through individual projects prepared by experts from the two republics' ministries and from individual businesses and enterprises.

Comments on SFRY Situation

LD1905113891 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1800 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky ended his visit to Yugoslavia today and left for home. He had talks with Croatian officials in Zagreb primarily on possibilities for expanding economic cooperation between the two republics.

At the end of his visit Jan Carnogursky told newsmen that the current internal political situation in Yugoslavia had certain similarities with developments in our country. Consequently it should serve as a warning to us on how not to proceed in relations between the republics and the Federation, he said.

Dienstbier Meets Slovak Republic Counterpart

LD1705092491 Prague CTK in English 2059 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Prague May 16 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier met today for the first time with Pavol Demes, the new Slovak minister of international

relations, who said he and Dienstbier had very similar opinions on the matters discussed.

Demes, named to the post on May 6, told CTK he does not expect any problems concerning division of powers between the two ministries as he does not intend to build a Slovak parallel to the Federal Foreign Affairs Ministry.

One of his goals, said Demes, is to build within the framework of a unified Federal foreign policy the best possible relations between both Slovakia and the Czech Republic, and between Slovakia and other countries.

Noting that Milan Knazko, his predecessor, complained of inequality in the number of posts occupied by Czechs and Slovaks in Czechoslovak diplomatic offices abroad, Demes said he was not yet familiar with the exact figures. The main problem, according to him, is to find qualified people to fill the positions.

Dienstbier said the two ministries will work together to create a joint, computerised information system and a unified state protocol, among other projects.

Dubcek Comments on 'Power Struggles,' Pink Tank

LD1905193891 Prague CTK in English 1805 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Bratislava May 19 (CTK)—Chairman of the Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) Alexander Dubcek told CTK here today he understands the need for changes in the parliament Presidium but can feel personal and power struggles as well. Dubcek said his opponents in the parliament have not yet gained the majority but this does not mean they have reconciled with it.

Dubcek will be member of the honorary presidium of a symposium marking the 70th birthday anniversary of Soviet scientist and human rights activist Andrey Sakharov to be held in Moscow next week.

Referring to the repainting pink of the Soviet tank in Prague by parliament deputies Dubcek said he is leaving for Moscow after this serious incident which makes the position of democratic currents in the Soviet Union unfavourable.

Federal Assembly Briefed on Economic Situation

LD1605101291 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0800 GMT 16 May 91

[Report by correspondent Stanislav Benda on the 15th joint Federal Assembly session in Prague]

[Excerpts] Rudolf Battek [Federal Assembly deputy chairman and Chamber of People chairman] opened the session shortly after 0900 while deputies were still arriving. This was a good move, I think, as it speeded up their arrival in the hall.

The beginning of the session was made rather interesting thanks to Deputy Laszlo Rajczy's technical comments, which he delivered in Hungarian. [passage omitted]

Economic production as a whole fell this year—by the end of April by 15 percent, in the building industry by 35 percent. The increase of retail prices has slowed down, but if compared with last December, the increase in April was by 133.7 percent and the cost of living increased by 132.9 percent. These are at least some not very pleasant facts Deputy Federal Prime Minister Vaclav Vales gave. He spoke about the debated report on the economic situation in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic and on the economic policy of the Federal Government. Deputies received that report before the Easter holiday and it was gradually joined by a report on social policy and ecology.

Vales noted some more optimistic facts; for example, that in auctions under small-scale privatization 4,000 shops have been sold for 2 billion korunas, and thus the market economy is beginning to assert itself in various parts of the state and in various spheres.

By the end of May the Federal Government will prepare a program on economic policy for the immediate future and it will be submitted to the Assembly at its June session. Naturally, this program will take into account specific features of regions and individual industries.

Vaclav Vales also positively assessed talks between the government and trade unions and businessmen. He noted that enterprises do not react to changes in the Soviet market, in production programs, or in trading methods. Old methods still prevail, and thus our trade balance increases—or if you like, the Soviet debt to us increases. The government had to artificially reduce this by an agreement, and despite this the debt still exceeds $2 billion.

Minister Petr Miller is now delivering a report on the social policy of the government. So far only one, unfortunately very true fact from his address: Solving the unemployment problem is being approached only passively by registering the number of jobless people, but there is a lack of any activity, of creation of new jobs. This will take some time.

Assembly Views Private Enterprise, Pink Tank

LD1705212991 Prague CTK in English 1359 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Prague May 17 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Assembly (parliament) today passed a government amendment to the law on private enterprise, guaranteeing the equality of private farmers with other private business owners.

The amended law strictly defines farm production and does not prevent private farmers from engaging in other than farm production.

The parliament also approved an agreement on mutual support and protection of investments between Czechoslovakia and Italy, and similar agreements with France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

Federal Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus said the agreements will create a favourable climate for direct participation of foreign investors in Czechoslovak projects.

The parliament rejected a debate on the act of 15 deputies who yesterday painted pink a tank in a Prague square, commemorating the arrival of Russian troops at the end of World War II.

Slovak Finance Minister's Resignation Accepted

LD1805083891 Prague CTK in English 2350 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bratislava May 17 (CTK)—The Presidium of the Slovak National Council (parliament) today accepted the resignation of Slovak Finance Minister Michal Kovac and charged Deputy Premier Anton Vavro with the management of the Ministry until a replacement is appointed.

Kovac asked to be relieved of the post already after the dismissal of former Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar on April 23 but his request was rejected. He repeated it on May 3.

Kovac joined Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia (HZDS), which split in March from the Public Against Violence movement (VPN), a Slovak Government coalition partner. The HZDS said it will go into opposition.

Havel Airs Views on Pink Tank, Yeltsin Visit

LD1905150591

[Editorial Report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1215 GMT on 19 May carries a 32-minute "Conversations at Lany" program in which President Vaclav Havel is interviewed by correspondent Jiri Vejvoda at Lany Castle; the date of the interview is not given.

Vejvoda begins by asking Havel to comment on the pink tank affair.

Havel says: "I would like to make several comments on that. First, most of our people probably share the view that a tank is probably not the best reminder of the sacrifices of the war and they would probably prefer to see some other statue standing there. Second, that young man's gesture of painting the tank pink probably went down well with our feeling for color, our sense of the theatrical, the ironic, and so forth. Third, I think that every sensible person with any taste is able to identify with the thoughts and feelings of his fellows, so we ought to realize that whether this strikes a chord with us or not, for many people in the Soviet Union this tank—unfortunately this same ugly tank which, as we know, did not liberate Prague in any case, really embodies something more—it is a symbol for them and a reminder of all the sacrifices made by the peoples of the Soviet Union in World War II—most of our territory was liberated by the Soviet Army, so perhaps this is something we should bear in mind. An open competition could have been organized for some dignified statue, and that rusting tank could have been quietly taken away somewhere to a technical museum, it could have been dealt with in a dignified and cultured way without offending the Soviet people. Unfortunately that did not happen, and I must admit that the action by the Federal Assembly deputies does not win my admiration at all—definitely not.

"Let us get one thing clear: The Federal Assembly is the freely constituted supreme state body in this country, it is the supreme organ of legislative power, some of its more radical deputies are, in addition, rather self-important and proud of their power, and at any time you can hear voices in the corridors saying that some minister or other should resign, that someone or other should not have the powers which the Federal Assembly should have. They would even like to control those elements of the executive power which ought instead to be under government control, and they would even like those elements to be directly subordinated to them. It is absurd for the executive power to be subordinated to the legislative power; it is accountable to it but not subordinate. When deputies of such a body feel the need to protest that someone is being prosecuted unjustly, or that the wrong paragraph is being used against him, or in some cases the investigating bodies are proceeding suspiciously quickly while in other cases they are going suspiciously slowly and, unable to punish the real criminals, they throw the book at people who meant well—and after all, this was an expression of entirely understandable and honorable feelings by the young man—if deputies then feel the need to protest all this by painting the tank themselves, then I think it is an expression of powerlessness, an expression of resignation toward their own legislature, their own self-important Federal Assembly which, after all, could have amended the penal code a long time ago if it thought that particular paragraph should be amended. Perhaps some of the wording really should be altered, but in any case that paragraph must exist—we know what crime is like in this country.

"So it is a sign of some sort of resignation of their own power, a sign of a lack of understanding for the feelings of others, and I would not be at all surprised if this were reflected in the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic's or the Soviet Union's attitude to Czechoslovakia. We know how much we need that country and that we need to get on well with it. It is shortsighted and it is in quite striking contrast to the self-assuredness that we can sometimes observe in certain Federal Assembly deputies, and to the jealous concern that any of its possible powers might be expropriated. If they have the wish and need and if they feel the obligation to be responsible for order in this country, then those same people cannot protest when something is out of order by

some sort of quasi-funny gesture, a gesture that is an expression of doubt about the legal order and of a need to take the law into their own hands in a spontaneous and wild way.

"There is another aspect to it too. The tank has now become the scene of a permanent sideshow, there are all sorts of boozy high jinks there, they have already demolished the star-shaped flower beds and so forth, but where will it end? Before we know it, we will have St. Wenceslas' statue sprayed red, St. Vitus' Cathedral sprayed blue, and all the pictures in the gallery will be sprayed. In short, we have the law, and if it is to be respected by anyone, then above all by a Federal Assembly deputy. If the law is a bad one, then it is his duty to propose an improved one, and if a law is not upheld, if the judiciary and the prosecutor's investigating bodies are not doing their job properly or quickly enough, it is the deputy's duty to draw attention to it; that is why he is in the Federal Assembly."

Vejvoda asks Havel about his discussions with Yeltsin during the Russian president's visit.

Havel responds: "I have known Mr. Yeltsin for some time; we met twice in Moscow. We held rather extensive talks during his recent visit and he clarified many things that had not been clear to me before—regarding the overall situation in the Soviet Union, the position of the republics, future talks on the Union agreement, relations between President Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin, economic reform in the Russian Federation, among others. The talks clarified many of these things for me.

"It is necessary to say that despite Mr. Yeltsin's reputation as a rabble-rouser, a bit of a provocative populist politician, when you speak with him on a one-to-one basis he is capable of explaining his policy and stands very comprehensively, consistently, and clearly. In short, he made a good impression on me.

"His visit was very important for us also for economic reasons, as many powers are being transfered to the Russian Federation and subsequently the Russian Federation is becoming our main economic partner. It offers immense market opportunities for our products and many raw materials we need come from there. It seems that the Russian Republic, Russian Federation will be our partner. This is in no way aimed against the Soviet Union or its integrity. This is simply a process of transforming that big empire into a much looser union of its individual members. Mr. Yeltsin did not visit us to provoke President Gorbachev, we did not receive him to provoke President Gorbachev—it is nonsense to put it that way. The Soviet Foreign Ministry took part in preparing this visit, and I think that despite the hurry with which it had been prepared, its outcome was good."

Vejvoda then says: "Mr. President, no doubt you have been following the events in Albania for some time. The first free elections took place there, but this is of course not the end of the developments. I ask you this question in the context that this week you received an important representative of the Albanian democratic opposition. What did you discuss with him, and what is your view about the situation in Albania?"

Havel replies: "Albania is one of the hardest hit countries in Europe—I mean it was hit not only by the rigid Stalinism that was imposed there until recently, but it is also a poor country which was kept in international isolation for a long time. All of us rejoiced that the developments which took place in the entire socialist camp, Soviet bloc or communist bloc, have finally also reached Albania in the events of the last year and the beginning of this year. Of course, the situation there is complicated; it is still far from victory there, as it is linked to a number of its own specific problems, such as an enormous 2 million minority in Kosovo, among other things.

"Mr. Pashko is a marvellous man, an economist, and a young man. He is one of the representatives of the Democratic Party which is in opposition now, but is represented in the legislature and which favors new elections soon and which knows its goals. It was formed in many aspects similarly to Civic Forum or Public Against Violence in our country. It also has similar problems. Definitively, it is necessary to give all-around support to this democratic anti-totalitarian movement in Albania; it deserves at least our understanding, because it is the movement which could re-open Albania to the world and transform this island of Stalinism into a normal civilized European country."

Vejvoda asks Havel about his visit to an agricultural cooperative in Velke Prilepy and to a private farmer. Havel notes it was in a way preparation for the next round of the television roundtable about agriculture issues to be broadcast on 20 May.

Vejvoda goes on to ask about the land bill, and Havel expresses hope that it will be approved by the Federal Assembly soon. He notes that rumors about the disastrous situation in agriculture are baseless, that agriculture is doing rather well, and the majority of problems are being caused by mistakes in the middle sphere between agriculture production and consumers. The main problem will be to make agriculture really effective, no longer relying on the subsidies it used to get from the state.

Asked about his trip to Slovakia on 15 May, Havel emphasizes how useful a visit it was. He met new members of the Slovak government and toured the BAZ Bratislava car factory. He goes on to describe the schedule of his one-day visit. Havel emphasizes that he is determined to be in touch with what is going on outside Prague Castle and in this context he once more points out he will not try to avoid unpleasant experiences, such as the attacks on him during his visit to Bratislava a few weeks ago.

Asked about a forthcoming meeting in Slovakia as the next round of constitutional talks, Havel expresses hope that the meeting which takes place probably at the end of

May or at the beginning of June after his return from Scandinavia will bring important results.

Vejvoda goes on to ask about Havel's visit to Scandinavia next week and notes in this context that there will be no Conversations at Lany. Havel says that he will visit the four Scandinavian countries and that the main purpose of his visit is to deepen bilateral cooperation between Czechoslovakia and the Scandinavian countries. During the visit he will also deliver a speech at a ceremony in which he will be awarded a prize at Copenhagen University.

Asked about Czech journalist Ferdinand Peroutka, Havel says he was fortunate to meet him in the United States in 1968 and goes on to praise his work as a journalist and as a man who deeply cared for democracy and was aware of his great responsibility as a journalist. Havel concludes by expressing hope that a new generation of journalists of the caliber of Peroutka will emerge in Czechoslovakia.

Slovak Prime Minister Carnogursky Interviewed

LD1805104191 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Interview with Slovak Prime Minister Jan Carnogursky by Lubomir Lintner; place and date not given; "Ten Minutes With the Prime Minister"—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Lintner] Reactions of Czech and Slovak political representatives after the talks in Lany held on 10 May indicate that the period of constitution drafting will once again provide a good airing of the relations between the Czechs and Slovaks, just as in the case of the hyphen [in the title of the republic] or power sharing. Are you not experiencing a certain degree of concern in this respect?

[Carnogursky] Of course I do. During these talks we sometimes get to a knife's edge. Precisely for this reason it is important that we always take rational actions and adhere to conducting our argument in a matter-of-fact manner and that we do not slip into demagogy, as it were. But I think that from this viewpoint good prerequisites exist and the latest talks in Lany were businesslike. The sides listened to each other's arguments rather than evoking passions. Even in this connection, the expanded environment in which the talks will be held and continued represents a rather unknown factor for me personally. By expanded environment I mean economic and social problems which, though not being directly linked with the problem of relations between Bohemia and Slovakia, could introduce passions into the social and political environment, and they could in turn be reflected in these talks. So far I have on the whole been unable to assess which direction this course will take.

[Lintner] Are the people in Bohemia at all able—or, to use a different expression—are they at all willing to understand us? It was the sharp reaction of Prime Minister Petr Pithart on the television program That Was the Week, responding to the words of Jan Petrik, Christian Democratic Movement central secretary, which prompted my formulating this question in this way. He recalled such things as clean bills and good friends.

[Carnogursky] Since you asked whether they are able or willing to understand us, then I think that the answer is yes, they are. It is demonstrated also by the fact that the basis, the Czech political representation, is willing to agree with the principle of a treaty between the Slovak and Czech republics. The process of differentiation or the process of refining views in the Czech political environment is still going on, but I think that the basic direction is good.

[Lintner] Let us now speak about Mr. Pithart's immediate response: Slovakia will pay for this. Will Slovakia really pay for it?

[Carnogursky] Petr Pithart's response did not relate to the treaty itself and to this type of arrangement of mutual relations, but rather to a transition to some kind of very detailed economic settlement. I do not think that Slovakia should pay for it; however, Slovakia must establish a basic balance of its political position, economic and possibly international relations.

[Lintner] What is your explanation of the Czech side's pronounced disagreement with the concept of a treaty?

[Carnogursky] I must admit that I have not studied the exact semantic difference between the words treaty and agreement, but legally the two concepts are on the same level, particularly in terms of their binding nature. If an attempt to use a word with a lower connotation of meaning appears in the Czech environment, then my own explanation is that this is a reflection of the discussion whether this treaty should have the character of an international or domestic agreement, with the premise that in the thinking of the Czech political representation, the word with lower connotation is closer to a domestic nature of the treaty, and this is why it is more acceptable to them. But these considerations are more psychological than legal or political in nature.

[Lintner] There are continuing signs from the Czech side indicating that the treaty between the republics should allegedly represent a breakup of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. Please tell the listeners in more specific terms—I note that this interview is broadcast also by Prague Radio—please specify, in keeping with the Christian Democratic Movement proposal, what would be the content of this treaty between the republics.

[Carnogursky] This treaty should contain fundamental principles of Czechoslovakia's constitutional setup. This means fundamental principles of relations between the Czech and Slovak republics in a common state. It should also contain a more specific or at least rough division of powers between Federal and republican levels. It could perhaps contain some other details, but these would be the two main ranges. I feel that it should strengthen our

relations through legal implementation of equality between both national republics, and also because the changes in this treaty would be rather complicated from the procedural viewpoint, and consequently it would not be very easy for either side to alter this kind of treaty. [passage omitted]

[Lintner] Here is a rather personal question. What is your attitude to the people who cooperated with State Security?

[Carnogursky] I think that here one should make a distinction between those who consciously cooperated, apart from other things, by signing a contract and who reported on our people, and those who simply became a kind of target of State Security, which kept summoning, interrogating, and visiting them. They gave information and were under the impression that it was their duty to do so. Let us not forget that according to the law on the national security corps, which was then in effect, there existed a general duty to provide information. And because I am unable to distinguish between these two groups of people, because this will be a difficult task requiring careful examination going even down to individual cases, I am glad that we are not pushing things forward too fast in Slovakia. In this way we have at our disposal the experience from the Federal Assembly and also from the Czech National Council, where this problem is also tackled. This will make it possible for us to perhaps resolve the problem in a just way.

[Lintner] The postponement of the solution will, however, generate a considerable amount of uncertainty. And the uncertainty in politics—and I have in mind a broader specter linked with the politics—the uncertainty can have negative affect on our actions.

[Carnogursky] In my experience it is the parabola which is the most frequent curve both in society and nature. This means that in the beginning things progress quite slowly, or the curve is quite slight. But when it reaches certain point things change abruptly, things move fast. And this is the course things will take in our country. While the problem of screenings has been tackled quite slowly so far, when it reaches a certain point, it will be solved speedily.

Klaus Interviewed on Indebtedness, Privatization

LD1705101891 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 1730 GMT 16 May 91

[Interview with Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter] Recently, representatives of enterprises are expressing the view that enterprises should get out of debt before the actual process of privatization. As minister of finance, what do you think of such views?

[Klaus] I have said many times that there is no threat or promise of any salvation from heaven or from the state. If we had the means to get enterprises out of debt we would like to do it, but nothing like that is possible, and it would be very wrong to speculate this way. We see reactions of some enterprises which are beginning to behave more freely because they think that salvation will come, that someone will get them out of debt from the outside, but I do not think this will happen. Simply, the state will help in individual cases where it is justified, but there can be no all-embracing solution.

[Reporter] Enterprises which are drowning in debt tend to be somewhat difficult to sell. Is there danger that this could slow down or halt the process of privatization?

[Klause] Well, I do understand the question of unsaleability, but we do not have a chance. If we lived in a normal market system with 80 percent private enterprise and 20 percent state enterprise and the state decides that 5 percent will be sold off, it will then truly attempt to cultivate the 5 percent of enterprises and get them out of debt and help them. In our case, however, when we have to privatize a high proportion of the economy, hundreds of enterprises overnight, there can be no all-embracing solution. I repeat again: There will be special individual cases, but there will be no mass salvation from the outside. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Calfa Makes Visit to Malaysia

WA1705122891

For reportage on the three-day visit by Prime Minister Calfa to Malaysia, including reports on his talks with the Sultan and with Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, see the Malaysia section of the 17 May East Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Jeszenszky: Country Will Not Join NATO

LD1905114191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] The Hungarian foreign minister has confirmed that the country will not join NATO. According to the AUSTRIAN PRESS AGENCY [APA], the Hungarian foreign minister spoke in Vienna with understanding about the Soviet request that the countries of the former eastern bloc not join any military alliance. APA reported that Geza Jeszensky regarded the security interests of the Soviet Union as rightful. The foreign minister said this at a news conference he held with his Austrian collegue, Alois Mock, after they returned to Vienna from the Pentagonal meeting in Italy.

Both politicians stressed to the journalists that the five-country alliance can apply only moral pressure on the opposing forces in Yugoslavia. At the same time they are of the opinion that the EC members states could do more for a peaceful solution of the crisis.

Kadar Interviewed on Foreign Investment Issues

LD1705100191 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1630 GMT 16 May 91

[Interview with International Economic Relations Minister Bela Kadar by unidentified reporter in Budapest on 16 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] International Economic Relations Minister Bela Kadar has returned from the United States this morning. Prior to his trip to Moscow tomorrow, he is going to talk about the developing U.S.-Hungarian economic relations and the hopefully transforming Eastern European economy.

[Reporter] To what extent could this 10-day trip be considered as the follow-up to the earlier visit of the prime minister?

[Kadar] In certain aspects it was directly linked to the prime minister's visit, since that program included a visit to the American Midwest, where a large Hungarian community lives. Furthermore, large companies can also be found in the region that made considerable investments in Hungary.

[Reporter] Which companies did you meet?

[Kadar] I met Ford, United Technologies, General Motors, and leaders of a dozen other large corporations. In addition, several hundred businessmen participated in my various lectures dealing with the Hungarian economy, our recent problems, and the possibilities of Hungarian-U.S. cooperation. This was the Midwest program for Hungary, concentrating great efforts on the region of Chicago, Cleveland, and Detroit because our foreign trade was previously strongly concentrated on the east coast. Now we are trying to develop cooperation with the interior of the country too. California and the Midwest also belong to this.

The main objective was to encourage investment in Hungary, and we also discussed what sort of new forces could be released in trade relations. We are expecting high-ranking visits by businessmen, perhaps by the governors of these states, to explore business possibilities in Hungary. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Will this much-desired capital really come to Hungary? What sort of willingness did you see for this cooperation?

[Kadar] Well, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. American capital is coming to Hungary, moreover, in Central and Eastern Europe, this is the place where it is coming first of all. It is no coincidence that almost two-thirds of American investment in Central and Eastern Europe is here in Hungary and not in the other countries. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] What did the Americans want to know most of all, where did they have doubts or worries?

[Kadar] There were rather thorough inquiries covering the legislation processes, political stability, economic environment, the various comperative advantages, advantages given to foreign investors, and the economic and political goals of the various countries. Well, they were not very pleased with the answers, when an economist politician could not precisely outline in what fields the country expects most of all the appearance of foreign capital. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Did you give a precise answer on this matter?

[Kadar] Well, seeing that Hungary is the only country in Central and Eastern Europe that has an agency for investment encouragement and trade development, and a somewhat limited fund with which it can boost investments with allowances for the development of the infrastructure, they considered this as a very important step forward and as an acknowledgement of the importance of cooperation with foreign capital. [passage omited]

[Reporter] What did you mention most of all in this region you have just visited?

[Kadar] The big international corporations tried to clarify first and foremost, what are the comperative advantages of certain countries. In the case of Hungary, naturally, we can mention a large number of factors; however, the first, I have seen their points, by the way....

[Reporter, interrupting] Do they keep a score then?

[Kadar] Yes, they draw up a score, we are the first, and the Czechs, roughly we are in the same league, but with a Hungarian advantage. I, of course, do not consider this system of scores as perfection.

[Reporter] On what basis can they decide this?

[Kadar] They have about a dozen points, on the basis of which an investor evaluates the various countries. I marked as an advantage in the case of Hungary, the high development level of the legal and institutional system of the market

economy, and also, by international comparison, the low-cost level of the highly qualified Hungarian labor force.

[Reporter] Did this assessment coincide with the assessment there?

[Kadar] Yes, essentially yes. Well, of course it is necessary to reckon with the fact that the large companies of distant major powers often have difficulty in assessing the differences which can form between the countries of a region which is culturally strange and little known to them. This process is now maturing, because it can be seen that Central Europe—Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia—is being handled as a new unified sub-sector of the world economy, but within this it is not probable that the large companies will set up headquarters in all three countries; they will choose a place for their headquarters.

[Reporter] Did you manage to reach agreement on anything specific?

[Kadar] These were not concrete business negotiations, but, if you like, it was a process of improving the image of Hungary. This was very necessary because rumors often appeared in past weeks which, in connection with the collapse of eastern trade, tried to shake international confidence in Hungary. Hungary has got beyond the difficult phase of the transformation process to a greater extent than the countries which, historically, have shared its fate, and in the case of Hungary there has been success in getting it across that the very great difficulties of 1991 can be traced back to short-term effects, which, for the most part, will be greatly eased within one year. By the end of the next year a revival will begin in Hungary, and then in 1993-1994 an upswing, especially if the staging of the world exhibition attracts additional resources to Hungary.

So I wished to sketch out a picture of Hungary's future whereby, after having made the journey over this difficult stretch of the road, Hungary will be a unit of the world economy as dynamic as Spain, Portugal—which are not entirely identical but which to an extent show similarities—where the south European dynamic development took place after southern Europe's reform in the 1960's-70's.

[Reporter] If I am correct, you will now be at home only for a few hours. Tomorrow you will travel to Moscow, for another major meeting.

[Kadar] The shaping of the fate of the CEMA has necessitated a much longer series of negotiations than we had expected a good year ago. Tomorrow will mark a stage in this, when we again set ourselves to work on the topic. Regarding the question of whether we shall manage to bring the positions closer on the form, date of abolishing the CEMA, on the related documents and on the date for bringing this into force, there are still opposing positions, so I shall be able to say more about this in two days.

[Reporter] Where are the differences of opinion, basically?

[Kadar] They concern the question of abolition and the creation of a possible new organization, of its being undivided or divided into sections, they concern the CEMA (?assets), they concern the new organization's character—whether or not it should be consultative—and whether or not it should have a European character. So there are things to be clarified, and it is generally known, on the basis of the practice of the past four decades, that unanimity is necessary for such decisions. The creation of such a thing is not easy if, for example, the positions of the individual member countries differ regarding the issue.

National Democratic Federation Founded

LD1805043691 Budapest MTI in English 1515 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 17 (MTI)—A crisis of confidence has again developed in Hungary during the past few months due to a general deterioration of living standards, a primitive system of political institutions and the instability of public institutions and moral norms.

Such a crisis poses a danger to peaceful transition and can deform the original goals of democratic change, said the communique of the National Democratic Federation, released at the founding meeting of the organization in Budapest on Friday [17 May].

The meeting was attended by four to five hundred people.

The National Democratic Federation has been launched by Imre Pozsgay and Zoltan Biro.

The communique assessing the main goals of the movement states that the majority of the Hungarian population have turned their backs on public life. Those having a desire to take part in it, on the other hand, cannot find their place in the present political organizations.

The founders of the new movement, therefore, have thought it necessary to establish a new political grouping, a new social organization.

Main goals of the organization include the defence of national interests and values, the preservation of the transition's peaceful character and the enhancement of social security.

Both Pozsgay and Biro gave speeches at the meeting.

Pozsgay stated the new movement wished to remedy that basic inconsistency, namely that the people had been given the opportunity to decide whether they wanted a change of system, but had been given no say in determining its quality.

The National Democratic Federation (NDF), he said, did not wish to challenge parliamentarism, on the contrary, by its activity, it wanted to strengthen the governability of the country.

The movement rejected all extremes, Pozsgay stated, though there was clearly massive disillusionment and dissatisfaction in the country. The NDF was thinking in terms of population and nation, he stressed.

According to Pozsgay, a social consensus is necessary in legislation and the fate of national assets. A consensus is also indispensable in foreign policy, as opposed to the present confusion.

The NDF is seeking to establish a basis among employees. They are working to create a strong interest-representation system for employees and employers.

According to Zoltan Biro, the whole of central-eastern Europe is in trouble. It is still undecided, whether democracy can be created under conditions of poverty and national dissatisfaction. He stressed that the Western model cannot be simply transferred into our region because it will not work under these circumstances.

National Democratic Forum Members on New Movement

LD1805153991 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0445 GMT 18 May 91

[Interview with Imre Poszgay and Zoltan Biro, members of the newly founded National Democratic Forum, by Janos Hollos; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] The Hungarian multiparty system was born prematurely, at least this is what Imre Pozsgay thinks. The politician talked about this with our colleague, Janos Hollos, after the founding session of the National Democratic Federation [NDF]. So here are the reasons, why the grouping which has 212 members was formed:

[Hollos] Prior to the founding session, many people speculated that a seventh faction would be formed simultaneously with the founding of the federation. It seems that the surprise did not come about. Members of parliament [MP's] from other political parties did not join this movement.

[Pozsgay] This was only political speculation, for this was not among our intentions. MP's came in large numbers to the founding session. We, most of all, are the initiators of a political movement outside of the National Assembly, which, however, does not exclude relations with the National Assembly.

[Hollos] How do you see the future of your initiative now? Many people are skeptical, partly because they say that the type of center parties which you foresee do not have great success in Western Europe.

[Pozsgay] We have decided two things; one is that we start from the Hungarian reality of transformation and change of regime, which was preceeded by 40 years of dictatorship and succeeded by a prematurely born multiparty system. This is quite a different situation that the fate of the center movements and parties that operate in consolidated and solid Western European countries. The other thing that we have decided is that we start as a movement and we leave it to the movement if the challenge arises, let us say, during the legislative election, whether this movement becomes a party. We have learned the most from that which, perhaps, very few have learned, that is, it is not worth forming parties by hastily gathering people from an intellectual camp. This can only be forged from a dialogue with society, and this might come about in the future.

[Hollos] Zoltan Biro, when did you feel better, when you were one of the founding member of NDF or now?

[Biro] I felt good at both times. [passage omitted]

[Hollos] You said in your opening speech that the country is in trouble, this is why you are here.

[Biro] It is not only Hungary, but the entire region is in a predicament trying to find solutions; however, these solutions are not very forthcoming in any of the countries. It seems that while our direct dependency ceased from one great power, we could have gotten ourselves easily into a new dependency of a very different kind, a dependency from other great powers that we are not at all used to, not even as much as we were used to military occupation.

[Hollos] Which great power do you mean?

[Biro] If I have to name one, it is the power of money, of capital. I think that in the second half of the 20th century, this is as great a power than any army of the world.

FKgP Appoints Bejcsi as New Party Director

LD1805160891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 18 May 91

[Excerpt] The Smallholders' Party has a new party director. According to a report in MAGYAR HIRLAP, Sandor Bejcsi was co-opted to the leadership this week. [passage omitted]

Details of Energy Price Increases Reported

LD1705134891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 17 May 91

[Peter Marvanyi report]

[Excerpts] Energy will again become more expensive beginning 1 June. The government decided on this at its session yesterday. Please pay attention now to the figures. The price of coal products will go up, on the average by 176 percent. Within this the price of briquettes, which are most in demand, will go up by 285 percent; natural gas will become 50 percent more expensive; and the price of district heating and hot water supplies will rise by 70 percent. firewood is at the bottom of the list, at 25 percent. A news briefing was held today in the Mnistry of Industry and Commerce on the justification for the price rises and social support to reduce the burdens on the population. Peter Marvanyi reports:

[Marvanyi] The main reason for the price increase is the elimination of subsidies, with the exception of natural gas. In that case, according to the competent officials from the Ministry of Industry, it is an issue of the main cost having burdened, to date, the industrial consumers. They received gas at more than double the cost at which households obtained this. The intent was to reduce this difference. [passage omitted]

Deputy State Secretary Dr. Arpad Bakai blamed the energy policy of the past 40 years for the current situation, the squandering and dependence based on CEMA's cheap energy.

Social Welfare Ministry Spokeswoman Judit Juhasz, spoke about compensation. She announced that the government yesterday mobilized 2 billion forints for this objective, which the Ministry, in cooperation with the self-governments, intends to distribute to those who really are in need, primarily families with children in which there is one wage earner—there would be money for 100,000 of the 235,000. From among the long-term unemployed, who no longer receive assistance, 45,000 could receive compensation. From among the families subsisting off of one pension, that is from among 450,000 people, 250,000 will partake in the special support the form of which—whether it should be a coupon or cash—would have to be decided in conjunction with the self-governments. In the case of those receiving support, the compensation will cover half of the price increase, thus not of the total new price but of the additional cost.

Food Industry Privatization Plans Outlined

LD1705152291 Budapest MTI in English 1157 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Budapest, May 17, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture does not intend keeping a single food industry company in state ownership in the long run, Dezso Mikus, a senior Ministry official, told ECONEWS this morning.

The government is soon to start discussing the Agriclture Ministry's privatization plans for the food industry.

The most important change in ownership relations in Hungary's state-owned food industry is expected to be implemented in the second half of this year.

The Ministry of Agriculture supports spontaneous privatization, but, in the case of a small group of food industry companies, the state of the companies will have to be improved before privatization can go ahead, Mr Mikus said.

These improvements should be financed from state budget funds and bank credits, he added.

Ministry experts feel that the problems in the Hungarian food industry could be solved by linking the food industry, food production and trade.

Hungarian food industry companies have so far run up debts worth up to an average of 70 per cent of their assets, Mr Mikus said.

Besides supporting foreign capital injection, the Ministry would like to see Hungarian producers involved in the transformation of food industry companies.

Italian, German and U.S. firms have already shown an interest in Hungary's 19 Hungarian meat-processing firms.

The nine Hungarian poultry-processing companies have attracted foreign investors, mainly French and Arab entrepreneurs.

The dairy industry has primarily evoked producer interest. Milk processing, and cheese and powdered milk production in particular, has attracted Swiss, Dutch, German, French and Turkish investors.

Hungary's refrigeration companies are better off than their cousins in the canning industry—the two categories account for 20 firms—but could still do with capital injection.

Domestic fruit producers, especially berry growers, are extremely interested in capital involvement, the senior Ministry official said.

Milling activities, fodder preparation and grain trade could become closely related to one another in Hungary's 20 grain industry companies.

Foreign investors are particularly interested in Hungary's milling industry.

Seventy-five per cent of production in Hungary's state-owned sugar refineries is now carried out in the form of JVS [joint ventures] with foreign interest.

The foreign companies involved are from Austria, France and Britain (each JV is responsible for a quarter of overall production), with the foreign stake in each venture being under 35 per cent.

The vegetable oil industry is currently represented by a single company with six units.

Nine foreign investors have been showing an interest in it, 4 of which would like to obtain an interest in all stages of production, processing and trade in the commodity.

As to the distilling and starch industries, Szabadegyhaza distillery has already involved Austrian capital, and talks with possible foreign investors are under way in the other companies, too.

Four state companies operate in Hungary's renowned grape and wine production.

The Ministry of Agriculture is proposing that famous foreign wine producers should be selected to cooperate with top-flight Hungarian viticulturists: the tendency on the world market is that there is an increase in demand for quality wines and champagnes, so this proposal would make sense.

Hungary's brewing and soft drinks industry consists of 5 state breweries and 2 state-owned soft drinks manufacturers.

Foreign capital injection into two breweries is already under way.

Of Hungary's four tobacco factories, two already have foreign partners, and the other two have also attracted considerable foreign interest, Mr Mikus explained.

Nestle of Switzerland and United Biscuits of Great Britain have obtained an interest in two of the three state-owned Hungarian confectionery companies.

Walesa Opens Economic Consultative Meeting

LD1705111291 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 0825 GMT 17 May 91

[Address by President Lech Walesa at economic consultative meeting in Belweder Palace—live]

[Text] Ladies and gentlemen, I welcome everyone gathered here, I welcome Mr. Prime Minister and all the cabinet representatives, I welcome representatives of political parties and trade unions, and also experts and consultants.

I promised my voters that a reply would be given to all the questions troubling them. I want to be loyal to my voters and I want to implement all the promises. A little time was necessary for the prime minister and the new government to familiarize themselves with the matter of directing the state. Now is the time to systematically report on the duties performed.

I promised acceleration. I promised a Poland with a chance for everyone. I promised above all service and cooperation. My slogan was: Wise by your wisdom, strong with your strength. The preparatory work for a wise acceleration ought to end now.

I am aware of the doubts and many questions about what lies ahead for us, about the prospects for our economy. As president I must answer many questions. That was why the nation elected me.

There is the question of the slump in production, there are the peasant issues, there is the problem of a social policy, a just one but one possible for the state coffers. The situation could become dramatic.

I know the government has the very best intentions. I fully trust it. It must be helped, the Polish reforms must helped, and that is precisely why this meeting is being held.

We are treading a pioneer's path. We are treading the road from an economy driven by ideological principles to a free market economy. Nobody has taken this path before us. There are no models. All the countries leaving—just as we are—the old system, face troubles.

We are meeting here to say to ourselves, to say to Poland: We must succeed in putting our economy right. Each one of us who understands the significance of those transformations, their historical responsibility—let him join in, let him support, let him help in arguments on behalf of stabilization in Poland and in Europe. In this hall, representatives of all important social forces, the toughest Polish brains have met. We have good solutions, but let us see if we cannot find even better ones.

I ask you all gathered here: Let us discuss things jointly, let us show what can be done better, what can be done more quickly. I would like us to leave this hall and present the best possible proposals, the proposals leading to success in a much clearer manner. Society is anxiously expecting this from us. I hope that your deliberations will be fruitful for the good of our homeland. Thank you.

'No Consensus' Reached

LD1805100191 Warsaw PAP in English 0012 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 17—No consensus was reached during the first day of an economic debate held at the presidential seat at the Belweder Palace here today with the participation of Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, Deputy Prime Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, the president's advisory committee and outstanding Polish economists representing major political and social forces in this country. The aim of the debate is to find out whether corrections of the government economic programme are necessary.

In his opening address President Lech Walesa voiced support for the government and appealed for assistance in carrying out reforms.

Despite his appeal participants in the meeting expressed a great number of conflicting opinions with regard to the diagnosis of the current bad socio-economic situation of Poland and to proposed changes.

Some experts claimed that the main reason for Poland's present troubles was the bad macro-economic policy imposing too tough fiscal and monetary requirements on economic subjects, which resulted in cutting down production and domestic demand. According to them a key to solving these problems would be to ease regulations concerning pay, credits and the budget.

Other economists argued that the government's policy was rational but its actions too soft and unable to coerce processes conducive to better efficiency.

Another group of debaters said the main error of the stabilisation policy was the underestimation of the micro-economic policy aimed to stimulate supply.

In the course of the debate Deputy Ryszard Bugaj termed the economic situation as dramatic, saying that production may fall by 40 per cent in may against the same month last year. According to him this should be the starting-point for reaching an agreement on the economic programme.

Another crucial problem discussed at the meeting was the sovereignty of the Polish economic policy in the context of commitments made by Poland towards the International Monetary Fund. Some participants were of the opinion that those commitments, including a one per cent monthly inflation rate or a stable currency rate, were unfeasible. They also pointed out that other post- communist countries had not made similar commitments.

The debate, completely inconclusive today, will continue on 19 May.

Bielecki Comments on Conference End

LD1805191691 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1700 GMT 18 May 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki by unidentified reporter at the Belweder Palace; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Let us now hear [Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof] Bielecki's reflections in an on-the-spot discussion with journalists at the end of the economic conference at the Belweder Palace. The prime minister tells us whether the conference was a failure for the government.

[Bielecki] It is irrelevant whether the government won or lost. I do not think that was what Mr. President had in mind, and consequently he did not appoint himself a super-arbiter. The winners are Poland and the Polish economic reforms which, in spite of difficulties, must go ahead.

[Reporter] The initiators of the conference included Professor Kurowski, who said yesterday that a change of policy was not possible without changing the politicians. Do you share this point of view?

[Bielecki] I did not hear this view, but I think that at that moment Prof. Kurowski declared himself a politician who would like to make different policies, and that is why we have free elections, that is why we have democracy in Poland, so that one can convince one's own party, convince the electorate, and then take power.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, to what extent do you propose to make use of the statements made here which proposed a change in government policy?

[Bielecki] We still must analyze very thoroughly every conclusion which follows from this conference, then I will be able to answer this, especially as some of the appraisals and plans coincide with what we have done so far or intend to do in the future. There is no question of any dogmatism here, or obstinately following only one road. But I say again, a certain framework is inalienable, it is not subject for discussion, as far as I am concerned. If someone says that we should stop privatization and protect the state sector, that's an example of crossing the Rubicon, and is a return to socialism.

[Reporter] You have not heard such sentiments too often at this conference?

[Bielecki] No, no. I said this more in an abstract way than from the point of view of the conference.

[Warsaw PAP in English at 1542 GMT on 18 May adds in a Warsaw-datelined report: "A 2-day economic debate at the Belweder Palace, official residence of President Lech Walesa, ended today. Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, commenting on the meeting, said that participants had been motivated by a wish to serve Poland's best interests. There had been no attempt to support partisan viewpoints. Conclusions from the debate will next be discussed by economic experts and will be taken into account in the course of government activity, he said. Prime Minister Bielecki also said it was expedient to organize such meetings in the future."]

'Big Diversity' Noted

LD1805231291 Warsaw PAP in English 1922 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 18—The two-day economic debate, called by President Lech Walesa to offer support for the reform programme and attended by economists of various political orientations, came to an end here today.

"The primary, common aim of us all was the wish to serve Poland and not the political imperatives of any single political group", Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki said as he summed up the meeting. The observations raised will be considered by economists and politicians and given a close scrutiny by the government, Bielecki declared. Bielecki said his cabinet's economic policy has encountered a major legislative barrier. Transformations and economic development cannot be speeded up unless new legislation is provided. Even what he termed as evident legislative nonsense was guarded with legal provisions and could not be removed to provide a prompt effect. Unfortunately, this government—while being endorsed by Mister President—does not enjoy a parliamentary majority, the prime minister deplored. He described today's meeting as vital and said it should have a follow up.

In the formal sense, the debate revealed a big diveristy of opinions among Polish experts as to both the diagnosis and remedy for the Polish economy.

Professor Jan Winiecki, who volunteered his own summing up of the debate at the end of the meeting, said it was not "too optimistic" not only because there was no consensus—for this could hardly have been expected—but because there was no sign of bringing the stands any closer even on issues where the differences of opinion were minor, as was the case with the way the economic policy should be materialized. Winiecki said three groups of opinions could be distinguished. One comprises the views which highly appreciated the macroeconomic programme implemented by both Solidarity-born governments, with criticism being limited to lack of consistency. Another group of opinions embraces various degrees of criticism of the said programme, without actually rejecting it. The third group of views does reject the government policy and postulates easing the rigours, be it at the expense of higher inflation.

Minister of Ownership Changes Janusz Lewandowski said that, apart from the already applied methods, like privatization by way of bankruptcy proceedings or leasing, the ministry prepared a list of enterprises to be promptly privatized. Besides, small enterprises will be privatized by tender, a move expected to induce a change in the ownership of 800 such enterprises this year.

Dr Aleksander Jedruszczak charged the government with uncritical following of Western examples and excessive reliance on services of foreign experts, which he termed uncritical fascination with the West.

Professor Rafal Krawczyk said that the government's failure and the bogging down of the process of reforms stemmed from pursuing only one path of changes, namely the prices reform. Important changes failed to take place either in privatization or in the structure of the economy in general and it was not de-monopolized at all.

On behalf of the Democratic Union, Dr Waldemar Kuczynski declared support for the "political harmonization around the main current of reforms pursued by the government", although he stressed that the government should open itself up more to criticism.

Most debaters said that structural changes were the key to changes in the Polish economy. They should cover de-monopolization of the economy, privatization, and a change in the function and character of the state enterprise so that it could properly react to mechanisms of market economy. Differences of opinion emerged around the pace of changes and the ways of implementing them.

Professor Andrzej Tymowski said social policy is being replaced by charity. The government is not supported by any social group because all groups, apart from profiteers, lose by the reform, he charged.

Labour and Social Policy Minister Michal Boni said that now that economy is undergoing a change, a compromise should be sought between the state's shielding function and the citizens' activeness.

Professor Julian Auleytner said that eight million people in Poland live on the verge of poverty, while pauperization practically makes privatization impossible.

Professor Jan Winiecki said that the relation between the average old-age pension and wage, amounting to 75 per cent as planned for this year, is unprecedented even in very rich countries. Also, the amount of unemployment benefit should depend on the unemployed man's family status and on the duration of unemployment.

After the conference, the Polish President's Advisory Committee issued a statement which said in part: "A difference of views has emerged between the government's macroeconomic team and the majority of experts. The debaters formulated various diagnoses of the causes for the fall of production, inflation persisting in spite of this, budgetary gap and other divergencies between the announced and achieved economic results. The debaters also proposed alternative solutions to improve the situation.

"We hope that the government will analyze and use the results of the conference, said the statement, which was signed by Andrzej Kostarczyk, Stefan Kurowski, Antoni Macierewicz, Zdzislaw Najder, Jan Olszewski, Jan Winiecki and Committee Secretary Wojciech Wlodarczyk.

"The debate played a useful role because it showed what the divergence of views was and what the key items were," Deputy Premier Leszek Balcerowicz, the architect of Poland's current economic policy, told journalists after the debate in the Belweder Palace here today. He admitted that the pace of changes in the structure of the enterprises' economic system should be swifter and said this was reflected in a package prepared by the government. Balcerowicz postulated also that such elements of the protective system as unemployment benefits should take into account the economy's potential to a greater extent. The system of benefits was created in a hurry and now the government tries to rationalize it by assigning means to fight genuine unemployment, particularly in small localities dependent on one factory, he declared.

Professor Stefan Kurowski told reporters that after the debate the government continues to be perfectly satisfied with its own performance, so there is no way making it change its economic policy under the circumstances.

[Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish at 1800 GMT on 18 May adds: "The National Trade Union Confederation's Maciej Manicki said the government was avoiding a clear definition of the objectives and possible effects of the economic transformation in which it was engaged. On the other hand, Solidarity's Wojciech Arkuszerwski said that in the present abnormal conditions there could be no normal social policy; it could only be described as minimal benefits."]

Committee Notes 'Conflict of Views'

LD1805205791 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The President's Advisory Committee has issued a statement on the economic debate which has ended in the Belweder Palace. It was stressed in the text that a conflict of views had arisen between the opinions of the government team and the majority of the experts. The committee expressed the hope that the government would analyze the results of the debate in depth and make use of them.

Miners Criticize Pension Law

LD1605143691 Warsaw PAP in English 1407 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Katowice, May 16—Delegates of the hard coal section of the Solidarity trade unions have demanded the exclusion of the mining industry from the law on old age and disability pensions the draft of which has been presented by the government to one of the Sejm's (lower house) committees.

Delegates, meeting here yesterday, strongly protested against applied forms of consultation as well as against

the draft itself. Miners' representatives said that the draft includes a number of unfavourable for miners entries. [as received]

Delegates, in a statement announced after the meeting, stressed that they will defend the hitherto rights included in the "Jastrzebie accord" and in the agreement of the "round table mining team."

"The government, instead of meeting earlier agreements dealing with the definition of costs of the economic reform suffered by mining in comparison to other branches, has prepared an unfair and repressive system of old age and disability pensions," it was stresed in the statement.

The delegates also said that the branch is preparing for a two-hour warning strike on May 22 during the national day of protest proclaimed by Solidarity.

Government Urged To Negotiate With Strikers

LD1605145591 Warsaw PAP in English 1412 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 16—In a statement issued here today by the Presidium of All-Polish Alliance of Trade Unions (OPZZ) Polish Government was summoned to take under serious consideration the conflict which has struck the copper-mine area and to settle it in a way beneficiary for the striking miners.

The OPZZ also demanded that the negotiators from the government side be competent and authorized, and added that provided the strike prolonged it would cause a lot of damage to Polish society.

The statement cited a radical decline in the real value of wages and growing unemployment as the main causes for social protests.

Copper Plant Calls For Work Resumption

LD1605144591 Warsaw PAP in English 1411 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Wroclaw, May 16—The management of the copper complex in Lubin, near Wroclaw called on the miners to resume work or the enterprise will go bankrupt.

This early afternoon representatives of the striking crew met with the complex's director general Jan Sadecki and other executives to seek ways to solve the conflict.

Lubin Copper Mine Manager Suspended

LD1705103291 Warsaw PAP in English 2343 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 16—Industry Minister Andrzej Zawislak suspended manager of the copper mines in Lubin, western Poland, Jan Sadecki and asked the prime minister to convert the mines into a state-owned company.

The group of copper mines in Lubin is now in a situation of aggravating strike crisis after the negotiations between the mine administration and the strikers brought no success and copper extraction was stopped at some of the mines.

The strike committees and representatives of all trade unions operating in the area continue debating over the minister's move and PAP was told late in the night the situation has not changed.

Strike Committee Chairman on Copper Mine Stoppage

LD1805090391 Warsaw PAP in English 1533 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Wroclaw, May 17—Working crews of the four mines in the copper mining region in the Legnica Voivodship have been continuing their strike. Chairman of the inter-factory strike committee Jozef Lysiak conveyed a statement to PAP today, protesting against a decision by the industry minister to suspend the general director of the copper mining combine and against a motion to change the combine into a treasury owned stock company.

A production stoppage has been also in the factory enriching copper ores since this morning because the plant ran out of the reserves of copper ores due to the four-day strike of the mines.

The combine's employee council has been holding extraordinary session in Lubin since 0900 today to size up the current strike situation and its new determinants.

Industry Minister Reinstates Complex Director

LD1905090791 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 2025 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Minister of Industry Andrzej Zawislak, ending his visit to the mining and metallurgical copper complex in Lubin, told journalists that he was withdrawing the decision he had announced in front of our cameras regarding the suspension of the complex's director, Jan Sadecki.

Mining, Garbage Strikes Continue 18 May

LD1905092191 Warsaw PAP in English 2256 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Wroclaw, Warsaw, Katowice, May 18—Workers of four mines in the copper mining region of Lubin continued their strike over pay today.

The talks conducted by general director of the copper mining and metallurgical combine Dr Jan Sadecki and directors of all the mines on strike with the interfactory strike committee were resumed at the Rudna mine at

10.00 p.m. after a several-hour break caused by a deadlock over differences of opinion that emerged when discussing wage postulates. The talks are to be continued late into the night.

The copper miners strike was endorsed by the federation of the miners' unions today.

Meanwhile, Warsaw garbage collectors rejected a 400,000-zloty wage rise proposed by the Warsaw authorities and continue their strike.

Also today, the board of the Silesia-Dabrowa Solidarity region supported a decision by the union's national commission to proclaim May 22 a day of nationwide protest against mistakes in the government economic and social policy. The board announced a protest action in the form of a 2-hour warning strike, with the exception of public utility services.

Coppermine Workers End Five-Day Strike

LD1905201891 Warsaw PAP in English 1827 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Wroclaw, May 19—Workers of four copper mines in south western Poland ended their five-day strike after an agreement between the strike committee and the management of the copper mining and milling combine had been reached in small hours today. Under the agreement the miners are to receive higher wages after the combine is privatized, most likely in September. The strikers also agreed to give up their postulate on a new pension bill for miners as a new draft law had been submitted for consultation during the protest. The Federation of the Miners Trade Unions is to watch over the work on the bill. The miners also promised to make up for the losses caused by the strike.

Throughout Sunday preparations were under way in the copper mines to resume work.

Bielecki on Problems of Election Delay

LD1905122791 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1200 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki has been elected chairman of the political council of the Liberal Democratic Congress.

Speaking during the second day of debates at the party's national conference in Warsaw, Prime Minister Bielecki said that the postponement of the elections until October has opened the field to a new political game which the population understands less and less. For the government that I am leading, he added, this is an additional complication. The majority of changes necessary for the reforms need new legislative regulations, however, these days the government and the legislature are not working in a harmonious rhythm toward reform. This makes those tasks for which we have been elected more difficult to perform.

Skubiszewski on Entry Into 'Pentagonal Group'

LD1905143791 Warsaw PAP in English 1409 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 19—"We have attained one of the objectives of our foreign policy which we have consistently sought from 1990," Polish diplomacy chief Krzysztof Skubiszewski told reporters in Warsaw today while commenting on Poland's joining the Pentagonale group. This country is scheduled to be formally admitted to the group of five European countries comprising Austria, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Yugoslavia next July, but the move has already been fixed at the Pentagonale foreign ministers meeting in Bologna, Italy, which came to an end yesterday. Poland's status to-date has been that of an observer country.

Skubiszewski said the group is consequently going to be renamed Hexagonale, and he expects the groups's current regional projects will be duly expanded to cover the northern regions.

The minister believes Poland's admission to the Pentagonale group under the group's unanimous decision was possible because of this country's stable foreign policy for a comparatively long period of time and its established position internationally. "Poland is being perceived as a northern keystone of the group," he said. In his opinion new opportunities are likely to arise as a result of the junction between the old and young European democracies within the group.

Walesa Departs on Official Visit to Israel

LD2005081991 Warsaw PAP in English 0645 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Warsaw, May 20—"These two nations, so hard tried by the history, should come to terms with each other," Polish President Lech Walesa said shortly before his departure for the first official visit to Israel this morning.

Asked whether he expected a greater Israeli investment in Poland, Lech Walesa admitted that economic topics would be discussed but said it was too premature yet to speak about their effects.

The president also said he would undertake efforts to have the U.N. General Assembly resolution of 1975 condemning Zionism as a form of racism rescinded.

General Stanculescu Promoted, Put in Reserves

AU1805134991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0912 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/5/1991—By presidential decree, issued on 13 May 1991, Colonel General Victor Atanasie Constantin Stanculescu was promoted to the rank of general of the Army.

By the same decree, General of the Army Victor Atanasie Constantin Stanculescu was put in the reserve.

FSN-SD Merges With Democratic Party

AU1905153991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1410 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/5/1991—The National Council of the Social Democratic National Salvation Front [FSN-SD] announced its merger with the Democratic Party of Romania founded after the Romanian revolution in January 1990.

The merger is regarded as boosting its potential for action in fulfilment of its aims. Showing that the merger came after successive meetings between the leadership of the two parties, a statement issued for the press says that not only the two parties' platform programmes are very similar in substance, but also their political experience is so, hence the decision to oppose the executive's authoritarian style and to prevent the country from heading toward, or even falling into the precipice that the current general crisis may take it to.

A strong advocate of national and international openness and of constructive solutions to the country's major problems, the FSN-SD regards the end of party squabbles and adversities and a re-grouping of political forces as a priority.

FSN-SD took a first step, the statement says, which it views as a beginning apt to pave the way for more contacts and even alliances with forces pursuing the same political ends.

SZR Issues Communique Protesting Negotiations

AU1705214191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1838 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/5/1991—Friday, 17 May, 9.00 hours representatives of the most important dailies and printing houses were invited to the Ministry of Communications for so-called negotiations on distribution tariffs. The Romanian Journalists' Society [SZR]—the Federation of all-press unions—was not invited. Its leader Sergiu Andon went nevertheless to the meeting, where he said among others:

"The so-called negotiations are nothing but a shameless diversion of bureaucracy. Negotiations have been carried out for months, and their only result has been that the claims of the press have been ignored, the chaos in the press distribution has grown, the dispatch commission has increased up to the level of a financial paradox meant to paralyze the whole activity of this kind. Faced with the ill-faith of the Post Department, that has pushed things up to a state of crisis, seeing that in the 17 months elapsed since the revolution, measures have been taken only to make things worse as far as press distribution is concerned, that attempts have been made to limit the freedom of the press by arbitrariness in its 15 May meeting held at Cluj-Napoca the National Council of the Romanian Journalists' Society took the decision, to stage a general strike of the written press, if the following claims are not met:

—The commercial company "Rompost-Telecom" should be deprived of the right to distribute the press, and that should be transferred to "Rodipet", as a first and minimal measure to turn a non-functional, costly system, with confounding responsibilities, into a rational one;

—The secretary of state and the relevant director-general should be dismissed, for having systematically obstructed the press distribution, for having brought it to a state of material and financial chaos.

The communique says negotiations are out of question, since the tariffs from which they should have started represented the largest part of the costs of publications, twice the costs of writing the papers, much higher than the costs for printing them. The commission on the press distribution is twice as high as that in most countries.

If the press wants to survive, there is nothing it can negotiate with those who have systematically destroyed this field. Hundreds of hours of negotiations have been spent so far. For avoiding the crisis in view, a high official, Minister Adrian Severin had decided to invite to him the relevant minister and the representatives of the press. Two months have passed and that did not happen.

The negotiations with "the most important publications" are a perfidious attempt to break off the unity of the journalists at a moment when that represents the sine qua non condition of our survival.

The Romanian Journalists Society announces that measures for staging the general strike are under way and that the International Organization of Journalists backs the stand of the Romanian Press Unions and is ready to support it by concrete actions".

After having read the protest, the representative of the Romanian Journalists' Society left the room and invited those present to do the same thing. All those who represented the press demonstratively left the negotiation room. The Romanian Journalists' Society—the All-Press Federation—asks the printing houses and the editorial staffs not to validate such "negotiations" that are only provocations by the presence of their representatives before the firing squad.

ADEVARUL on Reasons for Continuous Isolation

AU1605193791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1728 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/5/1991—Despite a certain political and diplomatic mobility frequently apparent in the numerous visits paid by Romania's minister and its foreign minister this country still carries the burden of isolation, the newspaper ADEVARUL writes. With several notable exception, the leader writer, Dumitru Tinu, points out, the itineraries of the globe trotters of world politics have avoided Bucharest and Romania has always been left behind when there has been talk about East-European integration into the continental institutional system, as a rule Romania has been left out of assistance programmes and when it has not been left out it has been offered the leftovers from the favorites banquet. Romania has had to go through the probation period to qualify for the most-favored-nation clause (which Ceausescu had given up with haughty disdain) and it has not been included in the prospective studies on the evolution of Europe.

That the Western world does not like us is obvious, Dumitru Tinu says adding that it would be quite naive to think that the question was one of feelings rather than one of interests. When it had an interest Washington pretended it did not know what was really going on in Romania, the author says and adds: at that time the services the Bucharest dictator rendered to the American geopolitical interests were more important to the bastion of democracy. And a similar attitude could be noted on the part of the other Western democracies.

Rejecting allegations that the Western world does not like the Romanians because they are Balkan, that a decision was reached in Malta for the Romanians to remain under Moscow's influence and that belonging to a Balkan hearth of civilization is a source of resentment, the author writes: The reason for "their" anger were the elections on May 20 last year and their results, because they expected something else. The Romanians did not vote—nor will they vote—to please Washington or Paris or London or Moscow for that matter. The Western world will have to take us the way we are.

Dumitru Tinu considers however that it would be unjust and harmful to the country if we failed to wonder whether Western reserves did not have other explanations as well. In that context, he urges us to take an honest look at ourselves in the mirror. Despite political resentment, he says, the Western world should have many reasons to be attracted to Romania, theoretically speaking.

Pointing out that most of the roughly half a million businessmen who visited Romania left without concluding any business, Dumitru Tinu highlights an explanation one of the decision-makers in the government (that is, Mr. Vatasescu) supplied recently: bureaucracy, disorder in enterprises, failure to work, socio-political instability, strikes, corruption. Adding to all this, the author says, is also the fact that neither the course of the reform nor legislative regulations attract foreigners.

PNT-cd Hold March, Rally in Bucharest 17 May

AU1705220391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1917 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/5/1991—The Christian-Democratic National Peasant Party [PNT-cd] staged, Friday, 17 May, in Bucharest, a march and a rally to mark one year since the 20 May 1990 elections. Leading and prominent members of the party expressed their position relative to the country's economic, social and moral situation.

The group of demonstrators, joined by members of the Civic Alliance, the Antitotalitarian Democratic Forum of Bucharest met at the PNT-cd headquarters and started the march along the route Carol I Boulevard, Calea Victoriei, Piata Romana, Magheru Boulevard, the Revolution Square. In Piata Romana (Roman Square) the marchers stopped and kept a moment's silence in the memory of the martyrs of the December 1989 revolution.

All along, the demonstrators chanted anti-government anti-president, anti-communist and pro-monarchy slogans.

The rally started at 1650 in the Revolution Square.

PUNR Opens National Convention in Tirgu Mures

AU1805140891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1142 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/5/1991—The Romanian National Unity Party (PUNR) called Saturday, 18 May, its extraordinary national convention at the City Hall of Tirgu Mures.

The participants, representing all the party's branches in Romania, will examine the activity report and decide on the main lines of political action and the party's future strategy.

The agenda also includes items related to organisation.

Ceontea Elected President; Conference Ends

AU1905192291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1646 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/5/1991—An extraordinary all-country conference of the Romanian National Unity Party [PUNR] has ended at Tirgu Mures today when Senator Radu Ceontea was elected president.

Minister Stanculescu on Prospects of Industry

AU1605152991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1336 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/5/1991—Two weeks after his appointment as industry minister, Victor Stanculescu finds many changes have occurred in that field, even if, sometimes, results have been less than expected. He mentions in an interview with daily "CURIERUL NATIONAL": improved production, higher productiveness, greater efficiency. Speaking of changes, the minister said state-run enterprises had been turned into over 1,500 commercial companies now in operation, 245 of which were members of 10 holdings in metallurgy, chemistry, material recycling, and into 19 autonomous enterprises.

Although re-structuring and re-equipment programmes have been implemented and other fundamental changes are still to come, the industry minister opines that autonomy of those units is ensured at a legal rather than at an economic level. The main cause which has led to that situation, the minister points out, is the material resources shortage, starting from the energy crisis Romania has been undergoing for years.

Among subjective causes, Minister Stanculescu names deficient management, inexperience of state advisers, the stumbling activity of managing boards, bad operation of the information system which is so important in decision-making.

Industry Minister Victor Stanculescu says he is for the revision of some programmes under way, for which it is impossible to ensure required resources.

"We are facing an important shortage, which will slow down our pace for the moment. The so much expected rebound will still take time", Victor Stanculescu underlined.

Roman, Moldovan Prime Minister Give Speeches

AU1705115891 Bucharest AZI in Romanian 11 May 91 p 4

[Speeches by Prime Minister Petre Roman and by Moldovan Prime Minister Mircea Druc, at the end of their meeting in Stinca-Costesti, on the Prut River, on 9 May 1991—"Petre Roman-Mircea Druc Meeting"]

[Text] Mister Petre Roman

Today's [9 May] meeting with Moldova's prime minister, Mr. Mircea Druc, was set in principle when Mr. Druc paid a visit to Bucharest a few months ago; then we agreed on a number of issues regarding cooperation and collaboration between Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

We have met here because Stinca-Costesti will soon become a new border crossing between Romania and the Republic of Moldova; we also expect two to three additional such border crossing points that will open in the near future. On this occasion, we resumed our talks on the issue of cooperation between Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

There are a number of important elements in our talks and we take pleasure in announcing that there is a possibility that they will be accomplished in a short time. I am talking about our country offering to deliver certain technological lines for the manufacture of construction materials, for which there is plenty of raw material beyond the Prut River. This is an important opportunity for the Moldovans to procure the construction material that they need. Cooperation and collaboration are important also for our counties in the region of Moldova because we also lack these construction materials, which are very necessary for us. We have agreed to expand cooperation in the field of education compared compared with last year's cooperation. We will exchange students and pupils' activities, which involve education at various levels, in various areas of education, and will send Romanian students and pupils to study in the Republic of Moldova.

We have discussed ways in which we can achieve joint economic projects in this border area, projects that could enhance the value of the existing potential on both sides of the Prut River.

We also discussed issues connected with the process of consolidating the administrative structures of the Republic of Moldova. Certainly, we are also going through the same type of phase; however, we have had these structures for a long time and our ability to operate them is greater and, we could say, more profound. We are determined to grant our entire assistance and share the necessary training, to make the administrative structures in the fraternal country, the Republic of Moldova, consolidate in accordance with what we call the European construction and European integration. It is clear that we are strongly convinced that Romania's European vocation is also the vocation of the Republic of Moldova, too. During today's meeting, Mr. Mircea Druc reconfirmed—if it was still necessary to reconfirm—Moldova's openness toward the West, toward Romania in the first place, and certainly, toward the whole process of European construction and integration. This is the sense of history that we are currently experiencing and we were very pleased that during today's meeting this sense will have been reconfirmed by both sides.

We have agreed on specific steps for the coming period to maintain and increase the pace of cooperation and collaboration between our countries and, on this occasion, we clarified—as it was to be expected—certain aspects connected with the content of the treaty that was signed by the presidents of Romania and the Soviet Union on good neighborliness and friendship between Romania and the Soviet Union. We also reaffirmed that, as a matter of fact, this treaty definitely opens the way for very broad ties and broad cooperation between Romania and Moldova.

Mister Mircea Druc

First, I would like to thank Prime Minister Petre Roman for having made it possible for us to hold this meeting. He mentioned and pointed out the essence of the results of this meeting. I regret that we cannot meet more often because also today I was convinced that it is more effective to hold a meeting, even a short one, than to carry out cooperation via the phone, diplomatic channels, or mail. In this way it is much easier for us to overcome certain bureaucratic obstacles, certain technical obstacles, or technological ones.

We base our relations with Romania on three notions: synchronization, interference, and transplantation. I cannot expand on them at the moment, but can say that for us, this means that we cannot take actions and can achieve nothing if we do not take actions and act together with Romania.

I have a difficult problem because a large part of my fellow citizens are not convinced or do not want to understand that we cannot continue without at least economic and cultural relations with Romania the way we have them with Ukraine. Many people believe, however, that we can move only in one direction and that we are obligated—and life itself demands it from us—to have relations with Romania and Ukraine, with Bulgaria and Belorussia, and with Russia and Germany. This is our goal and everything we are doing is to demonstrate that the only solution is integration and synchronization with all European countries, with all the republics, and with all the states that are on the road to sovereignty—I am referring here to the Soviet republics. I want to repeat it: I believe that all the intellectual achievements to which we aspire can be a result only of consolidation of the national economy on both sideds of the Prut River, in the two Romanian states, both in Romania and in the Republic of Moldova.

We, and I personally, consider the visit that the president of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Snegur paid to Bucharest, to Romania, and other parts of the country and the negotiations held and understandings reached with President Iliescu as a concrete indication of the intensification of our relations with Romania and primarily with the border counties. I am very pleased that Mr. Roman was agreeable to avoid having solely Chisinau [Kishinev]-Bucharest relations, and decided that we should have relations also at county level, between counties, and between districts and counties. We hope that soon we will also carry out a territorial-administrative reform and our counties will regain their old names.

We invite businessmen from Romania to synchronize with us; let us produce more, and better products, and primarily let us produce things that can be sold for hard currency on the Soviet market. We know very well the situation of the Soviet market, from the Carpathians to the Pacific Ocean and from the North See to the Caucasus and we are aware of existing discrepancies as well. I am talking about the fact that for 50 years we have developed separately. Everything that seems a disadvantage can be turned to our advantage, however. You have something that we do not have, that we lack, while we have something that you do not have. We have a lot of raw materials while you have a machine-building industry. If we start with the agroindustrial complex and some other branches—as a strategic factor—we can become highly competitive on the Soviet market, and at the same time we can satisfy the needs of our own citizens.

Today, we have discussed several issues including the treaty that was concluded between the Soviet Union and Romania. I can say that my personal opinion is that this is a step forward compared with other treaties previously concluded between Romania and the Soviet Union. For me that article, that instance in the treaty that grants Romania the possibility to have direct relations with all republics, at least that is how I understood it—including relations with the Republic of Moldova—is very important. Certainly we cannot interpret this treaty as providing an opportunity for or as representing a certain kind of relations of encroachment between the Republic of Moldova and Romania or as an obstacle in the path of the democratization process that we are currently carrying out.

Foreign Ministry Release on Treaty With USSR

AU1805144791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1336 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/5/1991—In connection with the joint stand adopted by the participants in the round table conference organized by the Students' League of Romania on the new Treaty of Collaboration, Good Neighbourliness and Friendship Between Romania and the USSR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania points out in a release it expressed in due time the wish that a Foreign Ministry representative attend the round table conference, starting from the necessity to provide, on behalf of those who directly participated in negotiating the treaty, information and details meant to help a most correct understanding by the conference participants of the treaty provisions. Unfortunately, the organizers did not agree to a ministry representative attending the proceedings, diminishing from the beginning the chances to have a documented debate.

As for the motivation agreed upon by the participants in the round table conference, the Foreign Ministry considers that it contains unquestionable facts consistent with historical truth, and it does not wish to come up with comments in connection with its content.

However, there is a far cry from the respective motivation to the conclusions drawn by the participants, both in point of scientific analysis and of arguments provided. In connection with those conclusions the Foreign Ministry makes some considerations, including:

Conclusion A.: "The Parliament of Romania may not consider a new treaty with the USSR—in view of the idea of an evolution of the relations between the two countries--without determining the official position—both of Romania and of the USSR—regarding the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact and its consequences and without mentioning the official stand—of either party—on the other disputed issues."

Until a new treaty comes into force the Treaty of Friendship, Collaboration and Mutual Assistance Between the USSR and Romania, signed on July 7, 1970 stays in force. In this respect, the conclusion of the new treaty signed on April 5, 1991, has its value, be it even because its ratification leads to the abolition of the former treaty between the two countries.

Romania's Government reiterates that the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact is null and void from the moment of its conclusion, and such nullity extends to all subsequent acts that are consequences of the additional secret protocol to the pact.

B.: "According to the Helsinki Final Act, the frontiers can be changed by peaceful means and by bilateral agreement. Consequently, we state that no treaty can be ratified that would eliminate—by ignoring—the chances of Bessarabia and the other Romanian territories to become really independent and, if the wish does exist, to seek reunion with the country."

The treaty signed on April 5, 1991, does not rule out, either "by ignoring" or in any other way, the chances of Bessarabia and the other mentioned territories, and by its provisions, the treaty does not rule out any kind of evolution in the relations between Romania and Bessarabia and the other territories.

Moreover, the treaty allows for the development of direct and intense relations between Romania and Bessarabia and the other territories, consistent with article 20 of the treaty.

C. "We speak up for adjourning the discussion of the treaty until after the endorsement of the constitution."

The ratification of an international treaty has nothing to do with the country's constitution. The act of ratification is the means by which the people's elected representatives pronounce on the acts of the executive branch. The Romanian Parliament legitimately elected on May 20, 1990 is wholly entitled to discuss and ratify this act, if it determines that the provisions in the treaty are consistent with our nation's interests.

D.: "In consideration of the extreme importance of these problems for the Romanian nation and of the tremendous responsibility of the decision-makers before history, any stand on the new treaty should be integrally broadcast on TV."

We agree on principle to this conclusion, in consideration of the impact of television on public opinion.

E.: "We consider as absolutely necessary the wide information of the Romanian people on the evolution of the relations between Romania and the USSR along history as well as, more specifically, on the new treaty."

We fully agree to this conclusion. The history of the relations between Romania and the USSR is generally known and, the Foreign Ministry has contributed and will contribute in future as well, as much as can, to the elucidation of the past facts in the relations between the two countries.

Parliamentary Delegation Pays Visit to U.S.

PNL's Sandulescu Meets Officials

AU1805144891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0902 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 18/5/1991—Romanian PNL [National Liberal Party] Senator I.V. Sandulescu, who is visiting the United States upon the invitation of the U.S. Congress, was received, Friday, 17 May, at the White House at the office of Brent Scowcroft, assistant to the U.S. President George Bush on national security matters. Senator Sandulescu had a long interview with Robert Hutchins, director for European affairs in the U.S. Council for National Security. The two approached issues related to the economic and political life in Romania and the prospective attitude of the U.S. Administration to a possible government of national union in Romania.

At the end, Senator Sandulescu stated he was satisfied with the results of the interview.

Delegation Head Comments on Visit

AU1705221191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1850 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/5/1991—A Romanian delegation of parliamentarians is in Washington at the invitation of U.S. Congress. The delegation comprised of I.V. Sandulescu, senator for the National Liberal Party, Ion Alexandru, member of the Assembly of Deputies for the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party and Anton Lintmaier, member of the Assembly of Deputies for Romania's Polish Union, met congressmen and attended the hearings of the Trade Commission of the House's Ways and Means Committee in connection with the possibility that Romania be given MFN status. They were also received at the Department of State where they met many officials.

In a statement to ROMPRES, Senator I.V. Sandulescu in reference to his current visit, said that "I did what I had to do for my people within the powers I was given by the Liberal Party leadership. I think that our country, our people that suffered and continues to suffer after 45 years of communist rule is worth any effort in order to get assistance, to restore its confidence and hope which it is beginning to lose. We had contacts at various levels in Congress and at the Department of State. In some of those meetings we were

listened to, in others we were not and I could sense downright opacity to Romania's problems.

In the hearings before the Ways and Means Committee's Trade Commission, my answers were those that I thought reflected the truth, but I would not speak about that before I bring them to the knowledge of the party leadership that empowered me to speak here, in Washington, on its behalf.

The most difficult part of our mission, Senator Sandulescu said, is to try to dispel the confusion that prevails in as much as political matters, economic matters, the geopolitical and spiritual specifics of our country are concerned, because only by knowing these facts, these things can one react properly. Therefore I was not surprised by some overreaction from certain U.S. official quarters, because the facts on which they set their conclusions were out of proportions. And I suspect that the incoming official reports from Romania have largely contributed to that.

If we set party interests aside to think of the people's higher interests, Mr. Sandulescu said in reference to the MFN status, the MFN clause is something we must strive for. So, we ought to find a way to get it. When I asked why we were denied it, we were told that the democratic conditions were not met, that the credibility conditions were not met, meaning the current government's commitment to democracy and a market economy. When our collocutors were told that tensions were likely to mount and shortages to become more severe if the clause were not granted, they got the point and tried to find a solution. And the best and most reasonable solution is a national unity government, as it was suggested in the 6 May meeting with President Iliescu, Senator Sandulescu stated.

TANJUG Profiles New Presidency Members

LD1705152891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1900 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 16 (TANJUG)—[Sejdo Bajramovic—] born in 1927 in the village of Zuja, Serbia, ethnic Albanian, married, has five children.

One of the oldest deputies in the Serbian parliament, he was elected in last December's elections as a candidate of the ruling Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) when near under one percent of his district electorate voted for him. Despite the small number of votes, his election was valid since ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, the majority population in the province, boycotted the elections.

Bajramovic graduated from the military academy and was an active officer in the Yugoslav People's Army (YPA) [JNA] where he spent his entire working life from October 1966 to May 1967 [dates as received]. As member of the YPA, he was with the U.N. peace-keeping force in the Sinai.

In 1972-1976, he was professor at the interior affairs school in Vucitrn, Province of Kosovo and Metohija.

He was elected member of the Yugoslav Federal Presidency by the Serbian parliament on March 21, 1991, with 203 votes for, 4 against and 16 invalid.

"My legitimacy is completely constitutional," Bajramovic said on May 10, after the delegates of Kosovo and Slovenia in the Yugoslav parliament refused to proclaim him member of the Yugoslav Presidency.

Bajramovic says he is a member of a "miliary, patriotic, Yugoslav-oriented family," and pledges that, as member of the presidency, he will be very persistent in his efforts to preserve Yugoslavia. "I hope," Bajramovic said, "that I will be able, through my authority, to work out a concept for reconciliation in Kosovo."

Born in 1939 in Rudine, Republic of Serbia, Jugoslav Kostic is Serb by nationality, married, has two children, received a degree in agronomy in Belgrade.

Since 1964, he worked with the Sirmium factory-farm in Sremska Mitrovica, PTK Department in Donji Srem, Subotiste, so Pecinci. [sentence as received] In 1964-1966, headed the PTK Subotiste Department on the test field in Popinci, and during 1966-1969 was the chief agronomist at the Popinci cooperative farm.

For a number of years, he worked at the economic and agricultural enterprises in the Yugoslav Province of Vojvodina. In 1978 was elected secretary for the economy in Stara Pazova and was member of the Executive Council of the communal assembly, and in 1982 was re- elected president of the Committee for Economy and Finances and was member of the Executive Council. In 1982-1986 was president of the [word indistinct] council of the Communal Assembly.

Between 1986 and 1989 was president of the Stara Pazova municipality in this province. In February, 1989, was elected member of the Presidency, and in April of the same year he was elected member of the Presidency of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

Mesic Fails To Obtain Vote for President

LD1705172391 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 17 May 91

[Sonja Badel report from Belgrade]

[Text] I am reporting from the Palace of the Federation. A few journalists here have no official information yet. We have managed to learn that the vote on the election of the president of the Presidency has been completed. The ration of votes was four to four. Following this Stipe Mesic, Janez Drnovsek, and Vasil Tupurkovski walked out of the session. We cannot, as yet, say for certain whether the others, the rest of the Presidency, carried on with the session, but at the moment this is not important anyway. Stipe Mesic said before he left for the session that if such an outcome of the vote materialized he would leave the Presidency and Croatia would embark on the process of dissociation.

Mesic Views Himself as 'Constitutional President'

LD1705190391 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1725 GMT 17 May 91

[Interview with Stipe Mesic, Croatian member of the SFRY Presidency, by Sonja Badel in Belgrade on 17 May—recorded]

[Text] [Badel] The SFRY Presidency session has been adjourned. Stipe Mesic, Janez Drnovsek, and Vasil Tupurkovski walked out of the session. We recorded Stipe Mesic's words about the course of this session before he left for Zagreb.

[Mesic] There was a lot of debating at today's session. However, the Constitution and the code of practice [of the SFRY Presidency] are totally clear. According to this constitutional provision, Croatia provides the president of the SFRY Presidency and Montenegro provides the vice president in this term of office. Although the code of practice calls for appointing, it is only in terms of voting to establish whether the date of 15 May has arrived, and whether Croatia's representative is here, alive and kicking, so he can take up the post of president; and equally, whether the mandate of Montenegro's representative has been verified so he too can assume the post of vice president. This is all this is about.

Otherwise, if this were a matter of voting, if the legislator and the one who wrote the code of practice wanted a vote, then they would say what happens if the representative of one of the republics does not get elected; the code of practice would say either that the republic provides another representative, or else it is some other republic or province that would replace it. Since there is

nothing about this in the code of practice the consequences are all too clear, and so are the provisions saying that one republic cannot be usurped, no matter what one may think of a candidate who was delegated to the presidency by his republic. To what extent Boro Jovic and company like me, well, that is not important. What is important, however, is what the Constitution and the code of practice say. As far as I am concerned, I consider myself constitutional president. For me, everything has been settled. Let others voice their opinions, but as far as I am concerned this has been fully solved.

[Badel] How do you intend to exercise this post of constitutional president?

[Mesic] Since I am elected by my republic, since the Federal Assembly has verified my mandate, and since the constitution and the code of practice promulagate that it is in the Republic of Croatia's turn, I must do this job in a normal way.

Time will show how this is to be done. In any case, no one else can do it.

[Badel] You have walked out of the session. Have the other members remained? What is the present situation?

[Mesic] Some stayed behind, but Macedonian President Vasil Tupurkovski and Slovene President Janez Drnovsek also walked out, because this quibbling and one-upmanship are just intellectual efforts exerted to score points that are legally unfounded. To attend the presidency session any longer and indulge in one-upmanship with Borisav Jovic is—as my people from Lika say—as worthwhile as drawing water with a sieve. It is of no use at all.

[Badel] This means that we can expect you to convene a new session of the Presidency and ensure that the work of this body will continue.

[Mesic] There is no one to convene the sesion. I have cast my vote and made my move. In the shortest possible time I expect them to tell me—if they wish to vote—who will cast the fifth vote, otherwise Croatia will not tolerate this insult. For Croatia, this means that the Presidency is no longer legitimate and that Croatia is no longer bound by any responsibilty. I think that Croatia will convene a session of the [Croatian] Assembly and that it will make a decision about it, as early as tonight.

Comments on Presidency Postion

LD1705210291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1936 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Zagreb, 17 May (TANJUG)—This evening, some time before 2100, Croatian Television interrupted a film and broadcast a statement by Stipe Mesic upon his arrival at Zagreb Airport.

Asked how he should be addressed, Mesic replied:

"As constitutional president of the Presidency of Yugoslavia. According to the Constitution and the rules, it is Croatia's turn to have the post of president of the Presidency. According to the Constitution I am the president. What happened today at the session is another matter. In fact, today's session was a continuation of the one that had been adjourned because, if the session and its work had come to an end, no one would have been able to convene it. That is why we met today in Belgrade, reckoning that in the end we would make Borisav Jovic and his friends understand that the Constitution specifies everything. The Constitution states that a president and vice president are proclaimed according to the order of rotation established in advance. In this specific case Croatia provides the president and Montenegro provides the vice president.

"Hitherto, never during the changeover of the 12 presidents has there been voting. This was always only a declaration. Jovic had in mind another variation, and at the last session the counting and voting began in haste. It is clear that those who were ordered to do so voted as they did. We have entered a constitutional crisis and we not believe that things can be corrected if the Constitution and constitutional provisions are recognized. This is how we, who do things in accordance with the law, think. But Jovic does not share this view. He thought that in the Assembly, three representatives were elected to the Presidency; hitherto there was no candidate for vice president, because Momir Bulatovic is president of the Presidency of Montenegro [as received]. He cannot be elected as vice president and things could not be resolved.

"Jovic's view was that in Branko Kostic the Presidency was gaining a representative from Montenegro and that, since we could not elect a president, we could now elect a vice president. In this case it would not be a particularly legitimate Presidency, but at least there would be someone to convene sessions, and the Presidency would have some kind of a legitimate status in the country and the world. This proposal was also not accepted. When I saw what this was all about—that in fact someone was trying to bypass the Constitution and that this was being done by those who have always been referring to the Constitution—I walked out of the session. Vasil Tupurkovski and Janez Drnovsek also walked out. I don't know what the other members are discussing, but in any case, as far as Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Macedonia are concerned, one thing is certain—Stipe Mesic is president of the SFRY Presidency. Everything other than that is anti-constitutional and unlawful." Asked why Vasil Tupurkovski chaired the session, Mesic replied: "This agreement was reached because there wasn't anyone else. Jovic's mandate had expired. My mandate as vice president had also expired, and it was agreed that Vasil Tupurkovski should chair the session. However, he left as well and now there is no chairman either."

Mesic's reply to the question—what happened when these three walked out of the session—was: "I don't know and this no longer concerns me. Croatia will draw its own conclusions from all this and take the necessary

steps. It cannot be put in a situation that is worse than the situation in which Serbia was previously, and Slovenia before that, and so on [reference to the last president being from Serbia and the one before that from Slovenia]. Twelve presidents were proclaimed in the same way, and it is not possible for Jovic to alter the provisions concerning the way in which a president of the Presidency is elected."

To the question of what the citizens of Croatia and Croats can expect after all this, Mesic stressed: "I do not know. Croatia has its own Assembly, it has its own president of the republic, and its own legitimate representatives. They will draw all the necessary conclusions from all this."

To the question that on several occassions he has said that separation is occurring [as received], Mesic replied: "I do not know, it depends on the legitimate and legal entities of the Republic of Croatia."

To the following question, as to whether he knows how the world agencies are commenting on today's decision, Mesic stressed, "No, I do not know this, probably there are people in the world agencies who likewise are to some extent familiar with the law."

Mesic also replied very briefly to the question of what role the Yugoslav People's Army has had in all these events over the past 48 hours: "Its role can only be constitutional and nothing else."

Bogicevic Blocks Presidency Election Move

LD1705225391 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Vasil Tupurkovski was elected Presidency chairman because the Presidency has not had a president for two days. He said: the session is over. Then he, together with Drnovsek and Mesic, left the chamber. The same was also done by FEC [Federal Executive Council] President Ante Markovic, the only one not in the Presidency who was present at the session. With this deed, the situation became additionally complex, because those who remained in the chamber were left without a chairman.

No agreement was reached on adjourning the session, and only Borisav Jovic, Branko and Jugoslav Kostic, Sejdo Bajramovic, and Bogic Bogicevic returned to the chamber.

Then, according to what HINA [Croatian news agency] learned from reliable sources, an attempt was made to persuade Bogic Bogicevic, from Bosnia-Hercegovina, to accept a scheme whereby the others in the chamber would nevertheless proclaim him as vice president of the Presidency. Evidently it was reckoned that if Bogicevic were to accede to this, the new vice president would automatically take over the affairs of the president, pending the resolution of the situation by the proclamation of a new president.

Bogicevic rejected this move, saying that this election could not be carried out without the representatives of three republics being present. [passage omitted]

Parties React to Mesic Presidency Decision

LD1805225791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2118 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 18 (TANJUG)—While the Party of Yugoslavs in Macedonia today assessed that Stipe Mesic did not deserve to be elected president of the Yugoslav State Presidency, the party of the same name in Croatia said it considered that the replacement in the presidency has already been carried out.

The argument ofthe Party of Yugoslavs in Macedonia is that Mesic has "affirmed himself as a man who wants to destroy Yugoslavia."

The Party of Yugoslavs in Croatia, on the other hand, underscores that Mesic is the legally elected representative of Croatia and that the post of president belongs to him "by he automatism of the existing Federal Constitution."

The leader of Serbia's second strongest opposition Democratic Party, Dragoljub Micunovic, said that the constitutional crisis which arose due to the failure to elect Mesic has compromised the Yugoslav option abroad.

Micunovic said last night at the end of his visit to the United States, as reported by TANJUG's correspondent in Washington, that Mesic had been making statements on how he would be the last president of the Yugoslav Presidency.

On the other hand, Micunovic added, it was "risky to dispute Croatia's [word indistinct] leaxership."

The Moslem Bosnian Organization, one of two parties in Bosnia-Hercegovina which rallies Moslems, said today that Mesic was the only legitimate president of the Yugolav Presidency.

The Party of Democratic Action for Serbia, which also rallies Moslems, accused Serbia and Montenegro of disputing Mesic's election "with the aim of destroying Yugoslavia and creating conditions for a continuation of the civil war."

The opposition Party of Socialists of Montenegro considers that the Montenegrin leadership contributed to the situation created by the failure to elect the president of the Yugoslav Presidency.

The Montenegrin leadership has once again shown all its unprincipledness and inconsistency in respecting the still valid Yugoslav Constitution, the party said.

Government Issues Statement on Resolving Crisis

LD1905114891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1037 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 19 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government today issued a statement to say that it will, "within its constitutional authority, propose and take measures conducive to resolving the crisis in Yugoslavia by peaceful and democratic means."

The government recalls that it made a thorough assessment of the situation in the country on the evening of May 17, when the state Presidency discontinued its session without reaching an agreement on a new head of state.

The Yugoslav Presidency has been without its president and vice-president since the expiry of the one-year term of office of Borisav Jovic at midnight on May 15.

Croatia's Stipe Mesic, who was to take over at the helm of the state under the established rota system, has failed to win the required five of the eight votes.

The government further recalls its earlier announcement that it has formed a coordinating body to supervise the implementation of the decisions of the Yugoslav Presidency, Federal parliament and government.

The coordinating body is headed by Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic in person, says today the government's information office. [sentence as received]

The coordinating body also comprises Vice-Premiers Aleksandar Mitrovic and Zivko Pregl, Federal Defence Minister Gen. Veljko Kadijevic, Federal Interior Minister Petar Gracanin, Federal Justice Minister Vlado Kambovski and Secretary-General in the government Zoran Miskovic.

The statement stresses that the government will regularly discuss the reports of the coordinating body and take decisions which lie within its jurisdiction. It adds that the government will also propose measures which should be taken by the other Federal bodies and bodies in the republics and provinces.

Belgrade Radio Speculates on Army's Intentions

LD1905143891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1352 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 19 (TANJUG)—Radio Belgrade today says that it is not "certain if the army is at this time again reminding the federal leadership of its duty to ensure peace or if it is hinting that it will take over as the enforcer of law and order in the state."

In a commentary on a statement released by the Federal Defence Ministry yesterday, Radio Belgrade says that the constitutional crisis in the country is adding weight to the 'speculations that the military might temporarily take over'.

The statement says that, at yesterday's session, senior officers in the Federal Defence Ministry and the commanders of the army and navy districts and the air force and anti-aircraft defence "defined the duties of the commands, units and institutions of the Yugoslav Army."

The statement specifies that the session was 'chaired by Federal Defence Minister Gen. Veljko Kadijevic'.

The statement came after three days of constitutional crisis in the country following a failure to elect president and vice- president of the state presidency.

The tasks defined at yesterday's session include those 'in the further implementation of the stands and decisions of the Yugoslav Presidency adopted on May 9', the statement says.

On May 9, the Yugoslav Presidency defined measures for preventing inter-ethnic conflicts in the country, specifically in Croatia where at least 20 people have been killed in this month's armed clashes between Serbs and Croats.

Radio Belgrade believes that the Federal Defence Ministry's statement "clearly indicates that a package of orders and concrete tasks has been prepared and will become operational when the military leadership says so."

Radio Belgrade adds in the commentary that "here should be added the raising of the level of alert of the Yugoslav Army units and all the necessary authority to act which the Yugoslav Army this time" has.

The Army's taking over the enforcement of law and order in the state "would be a less desirable solution in a country aspiring for democracy, but may be the only way to curb extreme nationalism," Radio Belgrade says in conclusion.

Commentary Assesses Chances of Army Takeover

AU1905162391 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 0800 GMT 19 May 91

[Djordje Vlajic commentary from the "Sunday at 10" program]

[Text] The crisis in the SFRY Presidency and generally everything concerning further intensification of the Yugoslav crisis increasingly frequently pose the question of what the Army is going to do. Here is a commentary by Djordje Vlajic:

[Vlajic] After yesterday's news about the meeting in the Foreign Secretariat for National Defense, there are now more reasons than before to ponder about what the Army is doing and what it will do to calm the Yugoslav crisis. A brief news item of only few lines states that under the chairmanship of General Veljko Kadijevic, federal secretary for national defense, a meeting of the top-ranking officials of the Federal Secretariat for

National Defense and the commanders of military districts, the military-naval district, and Air Force and air defense was held in Belgrade.

One does not have to be a military expert to conclude that almost the entire command staff of the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] was sitting at the same table. The news also states that the participants in the meeting discussed the defense-security aspects of the situation in the country and reaction in other countries regarding this. They determined the tasks of the commands, units, and institutions of the JNA, including the tasks concerning further implementation of the SFRY Presidency's stands and conclusions adopted on 9 May.

Therefore, although the news was meager, it was explicit, especially the part that states that the tasks of the commands, units, and institutions of the JNA have been defined. This means that a package of orders has been made and that it will become operational when the military leadership considers it necessary.

This is the second time in the last 10 or so days that the military leadership has made itself heard. On 6 May, the Headquarters of the Supreme Command sent a warning to the federal state leadership and to the republics consisting of five points and stressed that the Army would no longer be passive and a silent observer of domestic, to put it mildly, troubles. The second point of that communique states that the present use of the JNA in preventing interethnic clashes has been ineffective. Then, the communique warns that the federal and republican organs are obliged to ensure normal conditions for resolving the Yugoslav crisis. With this documented warning from the Headquarters of the Supreme Command of 6 May we were, of course, informed by the top state body in the palace of the federation that the JNA has increased the level of its readiness and that if the organizations of the federation and the republics do not ensure peace, the Army will do it efficaciously in accordance with its constitutional role.

The Constitution states that the JNA is, among other things, obliged to protect peace and order in the country and its territorial integrity.

One must not forget that on 9 May the SFRY Presidency presented the Army with its tasks, and that, in contrast to some previous tasks, when the Army was given orders but its hands were immediately tied in carrying out these orders, this time the JNA has all the necessary authorization to act. The fact that the Presidency is currently without a president and a vice president does not mean anything at this moment in the sense of issuing orders to the Army, but is without a doubt a motive for the Army to voice its opinion again because the failure to elect a president and a vice president has caused an intense constitutional crisis.

One should also bear in mind that shortly before 15 May Stipe Mesic said that Croatia would immediately initiate the process of dissociation if he was not elected president of the SFRY Presidency.

Considering that a referendum is being held in Croatia today, one should see it as one of the preliminary things for what Mesic had announced. Furthermore, if the announced goal is also accomplished, one should take into account the fact that the JNA will not be sitting with its arms crossed.

Everything that has recently been happening in our country somehow fits into the speculations that have been heard in public for some time—namely that the Army could take over power in Yugoslavia for a period of time. In that period interethnic clashes would be calmed down. Some of these speculations are also a call to hold a Yugoslav referendum, a call for a session of the assembly authorized to deal with the constitution, and a call for federal elections. If one bears in mind the fact that in addition to a political crisis our country is also experiencing a constitutional crisis, and that many things are unconstitutional—such as the term of office of the delegates in the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly, the extension of the term of office of the Federal Executive Council, and parts of the federal and republican constitutions—such speculations are gaining weight.

The question is, however, whether the Army is presently again warning the federal leadership and the republics that they are obliged to ensure peace, or whether it is announcing that it will itself take care of peace and order in the country. It is also a question whether, regarding the second alternative, the Army can do this. Combat readiness has been increased to the combat level. Part of the reserve Army has been mobilized, and we heard from the communique issued yesterday that the direct tasks of all commands, units, and institutions have been defined.

Is this enough? Perhaps.

This would, however, be one of the least desirable solutions in a society that is supposedly aspiring to democracy. On the other hand, this could be a way to curb extreme nationalisms of all kinds if it is not possible to do this in a democratic way in a country where democracy is only making its first, unsure steps. In any case, answers to these questions will soon be known.

Commentator Warns Against Military Intervention

AU1905210191 Belgrade RTV Television Network Sat TV Program in Serbo-Croatian 1730 GMT 19 May 91

[Commentary by POLITIKA political-military commentator Miroslav Lazanski]

[Text] Yugoslavia has obviously become a constant topic of discussion for almost all the world centers of power. The unresolved crisis in the country's Presidency, the extremely intensified interethnic relations, and even the beginning of a civil war, are causing anxiety among European countries and probably further afield.

Of course, the question that automatically poses itself is how much of such thinking and reaction in Europe is based on good intentions and friendliness toward our country and how much of it is based on some other, for the time being secret, political, and even military games and, of course, a combination of the two. At a time when the Warsaw Pact has virtually collapsed, and as we can see CEMA is also being abolished, that is to say, at a time when NATO is not thinking at all about disbanding itself, but on the contrary, about strengthening, qualitatively strengthening NATO combat formations, at a time when the EC is virtually expanding through the Western European Union the zone of possible military operations by NATO, at a time when NATO considers or when its strategists are planning to shift its military operations toward the countries of Eastern Europe, calls are being made from some parts of Yugoslavia for foreign military mediation or intervention in Yugoslavia.

If one could describe such calls with a clear conscience as grand treason, then it is obvious that those who are perhaps ready to eventually accept such invitations certainly do not have all the facts and knowledge as to what is actually going on in Yugoslavia at the moment.

One thing is certain: The Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] has clearly stated that any forced military crossing of the Yugoslav border will be considered aggression and that it will react correspondingly.

The recent meeting in the Federal Secretariat for National Defense with all the top members of the Yugoslav military leadership is only confirmation of such a definite stand of the JNA. Those abroad who are thinking about possible troops for rapid intervention, special units for swift operations, or some sort of rapid deployment force of a West European character are certainly not aware that a possible Desert Storm or Desert Shield or any kind of similar operation cannot be repeated on Yugoslavia's territory. This territory is not a Saudi Arabian or Kuwaiti desert. For every such adventurist who would participate in such a lunatic military operation this territory could become a Balkan Vietnam, and perhaps something even worse than that.

In any case, the days to come will show whether foreign circles are aware of this fact.

Federal Government Views Conflicts in Croatia

AU1705193691 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 17 May 91

[Olivija Rusovac report]

[Text] The conclusions recently adopted by the Federal Executive Council [FEC] and the SFRY Presidency regarding the disarming of illegal armed formations seem to be becoming reality.

[Rusovac] At its session today, the FEC created a coordination body that will coordinate tasks concerning the implementation of the conclusions made by the FEC and the SFRY Presidency about solving the political crisis and the armed conflicts in the country.

As we have learned, as early as tomorrow, the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs will send its teams to three communes: to Vukovar and Vinkovci, to Zadar and Sibenik, and to Gospic. The Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs will coordinate its activity with the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The teams will try to reconcile the citizens and to demobilize reserve units with a view to preventing further conflicts.

The FEC session was also attended by a representative of the Yugoslav People's Army who said that the Army will disarm paramilitary units at all costs in conformity with the conclusions of the SFRY Presidency. The Army is of the opinion that the SFRY Presidency should start functioning [delovati] as soon as possible, something that could be interpreted as a sign of support for a regular change in the collective head of state.

Today the FEC also decided to form a 20-member team of experts to examine the state of human rights in Yugoslavia. The composition of this group will be decided Tuesday, together with the representatives of all republican governments.

Federal Officials Sent To 'Defuse' Situation

LD1905111191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0939 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 19 May (TANJUG)—Proceeding from its constitutional and legal responsibilities, in connection with the implementation of the program of the SFRY Presidency aimed at finding a long-term solution to interethnic and inter-republic conflicts passed on 9 May, as well as the stands and conclusions of the Federal Executive Committee [FEC] passed on 8 May, and within the framework of the overall activity of Federal and republican services aimed at preventing interethnic conflicts, ensuring peace, and creating normal conditions for resolving the Yugoslav crisis, the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs has sent groups of inspectors to the terroritory of the Republic of Croatia.

In today's statement, the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs stresses that a concrete agreement on the tasks and the work method of these Federal Secretariat groups had been reached during talks betwen Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs Petar Gracanin and Croatian Internal Affairs Minister Josip Boljkovac conducted several days ago in Slavonski Brod.

On that occasion, the Federal secretary proposed, among other things and due to a complex security situation, that a Federal police unit consisting of 250-300 members be sent to the territory of Slavonia in order that the second point of the SFRY Presidency's program of measures and activities be implemented. Such a proposal was not

accepted by the Croatian Interior Ministry [MUP], however, and so far no Federal police unit has been sent to the Republic of Croatia. The Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs is prepared to send such a unit, however.

Working on the implementation of the tasks laid down in the SFRY Presidency's program and the FEC stands and conclusions, the groups of inspectors will be sent on a one-day mission for the purpose of direct cooperation and contacts with the MUP and the Yugoslav People's Army; with citizens, representatives of local communities, and legislative deputies; and with representatives of the local entities of power.

The main task of these groups is to contribute to efforts to: defuse the situation, demobilize the reserve unit, reclaim arms from illegal groups and individuals, restore international trust, lift barricades, abolish night guards, halt emigration, and ensure the return of those who had emigrated.

It is pointed out at the end of the statement by the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs that the Federal secretary for Internal Affairs expects that the inspectors will be given assistance and support by everyone, especially by workers of the police administrations and stations, local authorities, and citizens.

Alternative Serb Referendum in Slavonia, Baranja

AU1905180691 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 19 May 91

[Mirko Stankovic report]

[Text] At the referendum in Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem, a high percentage of people voted in favor of joining Serbia.

[Stankovic] In parallel with the referendum on two options for the future of the Republic of Croatia, 34 places on the territory of Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem, which are mainly populated by Serbs, held a referendum on these regions joining Yugoslavia, that is, Serbia.

The referendum was recently called by the Serbian National Council for Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem and finished this evening at 1900. According to the initial results, which we received in the receiving office in the village of Mirkovci, 3,131 people, or 98 percent, voted in favor of accession to Serbia. These results are still incomplete for the communes of Vukovar, Vinkovci, and Osijek, while the results of the referendum for Baranja are expected sometime tonight.

Considering the circumstances under which the referendum was held—fear, immobility of the population, and some voters being in exile—the turnout and results are more than satisfactory.

Regarding the republican referendum, Serbs boycotted it as none of the 88 polling stations in the nine villages of the Vukovar commune with predominantly Serb population took the material for carrying out the referendum, which obviously means that they did not appear at the polling stations today.

Increased Security at Serbian-Croatian Border

AU1905185591 Vienna ORF Television Network in German 1730 GMT 19 May 91

[Otto Hoermann report]

[Text] [Announcer] After the referendum in Croatia, the tensions between Serbs and Croats are on the verge of being further aggravated. At the border between the two Yugoslav republics, security measures have been increased.

[Hoermann] In the area northwest of Belgrade the Danube forms the border between Croatia and Vojvodina, which belongs to Serbia. This is not a peaceful border. It is under strict control. A patrol boat of the Yugoslav Army can be seen. Behind the bridge on Croatian territory there is first the Army and then the Croatian police. The Croats say that so-called Chetnik terrorists and arms shipments come from Serbia via the Danube.

On the other side, the Serbian one, there is also the Army. Serbian police cannot be seen here. The Serbs feel they are well protected by the Army. According to Serbian reports, refugees are coming from Croatia—Serbs, above all women, children, and old people who feel threatened by the Croats. Reportedly, 2,500 have come so far.

Preliminary Results From Croatian Referendum

LD2005005291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0025 GMT 20 May 91

[Summary] According to unofficial preliminary results of the Sunday referendum in Croatia, the turnout was 86.15 percent. This was announced by the republic's commission responsible for implementation of the referendum.

No voting took place in the municipality of Donji Lapac. In the Knin municipality votes were cast in the village of Kikevo alone. Partial voting was recorded in the municipalities of Vrginmost, Vojnic, Titova Korenica, Obrovac, and Pakrac. Final but unofficial results of the referendum are expected to be announced later today and the official results on Tuesday, 21 May.

Serbian Opposition Parties Form Alliance

LD1805193491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1521 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 May (TANJUG)—A statement issued today about a meeting of the leaders of eight opposition parties of Serbia officially confirmed that the

United Opposition of Serbia is to reorganize into a firmer alliance to be called "United Serbian Democratic Opposition."

In a brief statement from today's meeting, held behind closed doors, the leaders of the eight parties note that "the majority of party leaders have, in principle, endorsed a document on closer association. Over the next few days, the eight parties will declare their stands on the document." According to the statement, an official announcement will be made at a news conference on 23 May.

The statement also lists the parties that have agreed to join this political association. They are: the Serbian Renaissance Movement, as the initiator of the agreement; the Democratic Party; the People's Peasant Party; the Alliance of Reformist Forces; Serbian Liberal Party; the People's Radical Party; New Democracy; and the Democratic Forum.

It has been unofficially learned that representatives of the Serbian Peasant Union [Savez Seljaka Srbije] attended today's talks as observers.

Paper Calls Serbia 'Political Bully'

LD1905114691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1046 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Zagreb, May 19 (TANJUG)—The Zagreb daily VJESNIK today accuses Serbia of having acted as a "politial bully" to prevent Croatia's Stipe Mesic from being elected president of the State Presidency in order that this Federal institution should cease to exist.

The paper maintains that in his effort to create a Greater Serbia, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic will destroy every Federal institution to prevent "a peaceful modelling of a new community in the Yugoslav territory".

The next on Milosevic's list may be the Federal government, says VJESNIK, which Serbia might attempt to topple by institutional means in the Federal parliament or, which is more likely, outside of institutions, by organizing a general strike and mass riots.

Attempts to provoke conflicts in multi-ethnic Bosnia-Hercegovina may also be expected to increase a need for an Army intervention, the paper maintains.

This would only bring to a head the existing division in the Army ranks, which would consequently lead to a dismembering of the last Federal institution, warns VJESNIK.

Urging international political action, the Zagreb daily warns that the ultimate goal of the current Serbian leadership may objectively be to stir winds of war in the Balkans.

The delusion that the other Yugoslav nations would be the only ones to pay the price of this may cost Europe dearly, it concludes.

Belgrade Paper Cited on Mesic as President

LD1905115491 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1000 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Belgrade, May 19 (TANJUG)—The Begrade daily POLITIKA EKSPRES today raises its voice against electing Croatia's Stipe Mesic president of the Yugoslav State Presidency, on the grounds that it would be absurd to have "at the helm of the country a man whose chief occupation it is to find a way to do away with that state".

"It is no secret that Mesic, as a reliable exponent of the new Croatian authority, was at the time simply put on the State Presidency with one task and one task alone—to speed up the dismantling of the Federation and from his position make it possible for Croatia (and the others with the same ambition) to secede with as little upheaval as possible", writes the daily.

POLITIKA EKSPRES believes that "we must not close our eyes to the fact that the consequences to the Serbian people in Croatia of the one year in power of the administration of Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and of Mesic have been such as to require decades to be healed and forgotten".

Intolerance between Croats and Serbs in Croatia culminated this month in armed clashes which have claimed at least 20 lives.

The Belgrade daily finds fault also with the fact that, if Mesic is elected, Croatia will have given both Federal president and Federal prime minister (current Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic is from Croatia).

The daily writes that in the earlier election of Federal officials, care was taken to ensure an equal representation of the republics, but that now, "when there are virtually only two important federal positions", both would go to Croatia.

Slovene Finance Minister Voices Concern

AU1905191491 Belgrade Radio Belgrade Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 19 May 91

[Relja Atanasijevic report]

[Text] Independence will cost Slovenia very dearly. The day after this act, that is on 27 June, the new republican minister for finance, Dusan Sesok, as he told the Slovene Assembly, will not be able to offer it anything for discussion except great problems:

[Atansijevic] Immediately after the first evaluation of the financial structure of the independent state, the newly appointed minister began to worry. He concluded that the Slovene state apparatus is very expensive, that it costs incomparably more than when it operated as a

branch of the federation. On top of this there are other expenses related to Slovenia's independence. Among them is the erection of the border with Croatia. At the same time more and more pressure is being exerted by the economy, the health service, education, infrastructure, roads, and railroads. There is only a little money available. Additional funds could not be secured.

On top of that, Markovic's government demands that all liabilities be settled, including customs duties collected in Slovenia. These duties, as Minister Sesok said, are spent by the republic as soon as it collects them.

If Slovenia had to give these funds to the federation, the republican budget would be in a deficit situation. The minister expressed concern that the republican law on foreign currency dealings put off savers from investing in Slovene banks for at least the next 10 years.

Bearing in mind receiverships and the transformation of enterprises into state enterprises, which is burdening the budget, as well as the consolidation of banks, the monetary (?system), the sphere of privatization, and other current topics and problems, Dusan Sesok concluded that financial issues, from the point of view of the independence of Slovenia, are complex and very serious. Therefore, on the basis of the current evaluation, the republican ministry cannot offer to the assembly anything for discussion except a number of great problems.

Montenegro's Kostic Opposes Mesic as President

LD1705215291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1925 GMT 17 May 91

["What Montenegro's representative Branko Kostic said at today's SFRY presidency session"—TANJUG headline; quotation marks as received]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 May (TANJUG)—"It is the sovereign and inalienable right of each nation and each republic in Yugoslavia, and therefore also Croatia, to delegate representatives to the SFRY Presidency that suit them best. Membership in the collective head of state requires of each member of the Presidency that he is not a delegate only "of his own" republic, or only "of his own" political party, but that he also take account of and respect the interests of other nations and republics making up the united and democratic Yugoslav state. As a result, the rules foresee that the election of the SFRY president and vice president be carried out by the voting of all members of the Presidency.

In this concrete case, despite my full respect for the moral and human integrity of Mr. Mesic, as the legitimate representative elected by the legitimate representatives of the Republic of Croatia, I will not support his election as president of the SFRY Presidency.

In the conditions of two opposing concepts of the future of Yugoslavia, as long as the possibility exists for us to fight for our viewpoints in a democratic procedure, one prescribed by the SFRY Constitution, my vote will be reserved for a representative of Croatia who would be prepared to fight for the preservation of Yugoslavia, and not for its destruction.

If Mr. Mesic nevertheless obtains the required number of votes and is elected as president of the Presidency, I will accept this as an expression of the democratically expressed will of all the members of this Presidency, and will cooperate with him, advocating that we resolve the accumulated and complex problems in the country in a peaceful and democratic way.

I reject in advance all the possible objections to my stance that could arise in the form of ideological reasons. Montenegro, which has sent me to this Presidency, sacrificed a great deal for the creation of Yugoslavia. As the 27th internationally recognized state in the world, Montenegro sacrificed its statehood in the interests of the creation of Yugosalvia. I would be betraying the trust of my nation if I were to give my vote for the most responsible post in this state to Mr. Mesic, who has already expressed the hope that he will be the last president of Yugoslavia.

I am sure that by giving my vote to Mr. Mesic I would obtain all eight votes for the post of SFRY Presidency vice president. However, the reasons based on principles that are guiding me are too important for me to be dealing in the purchase of votes and calculations of this kind."

Macedonian Assembly Session Reported

LD1805212191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1607 GMT 18 May 91

[Excerpts] Skopje, 18 May (TANJUG)—Macedonian Assembly President Stojan Andonov today, at 1600, opened an emergency session of the Macedonian legislature with a warning that the latest SFRY Presidency developments had plunged the country into a crisis that could have serious consequences. The deputies are expected to endorse the Macedonian leadership's stands on the latest events.

Dr. Vasil Tupurkovski, member of the SFRY Presidency, was the first to take the floor. He reiterated that the election of Stipe Mesic was to have been a straightforward process, applied on so many occasions in the past, but that this time it had been blocked by four members of the Presidency. He went on to deny that he had coordinated yesterday's Presidency session, but had chaired it as member of a collective body and "as primus inter pares with the power to open sessions, invite contributions and suggest conclusions."

"Last night I declared only that part of the session finished. In other words, the session is in a state of pause. Although this is an extremely irregular and doubtful solution, it is, however, the only way of reaching at least some harmonized standpoints through additional efforts," Tupurkovski said.

According to Tupurkovski, a large number of unconfirmed and unofficial reports about the course of the SFRY Presidency's meeting have caused confusion. Under the principles we all agreed upon, there is no "coordinator" or "presiding member" as an alternative to legitimate solutions as envisaged by the Constitution and the book of procedure for electing president and vice president [of the SFRY Presidency], Vasil Tupurkovski stressed. The blocking of the regular rotation is without precedent in the body's history. This is neither a formal nor procedural issue, let alone a democratic procedure in the election process. The basic principle of coexistence in our present community, which was to serve as an example for any future form in which the sovereign republics would be organized, has been violated in a blatant way. Political views and positions of one republic should not be allowed to usurp the equality of others. It is illusory to expect to gain a superior position at the expense of the equality of another republic.

In Tupurkovski's view, the decision of Serbia's political leadership to obstruct the routine changeover in the SFRY Presidency must be carefully examined because of possible effects on Macedonia.

Tupurkovski stated that the fact that equality is being supressed is plunging us further into an even deeper political crisis, and slowing down democratic processes. A new form of totalitarianism, national hegemonies, poverty, a state of emergency, or abandonment of the reformist course could be alternatives to the crisis. It would be an historic mistake now—Tupurkovski noted—not to consolidate Macedonia's national and state unity. Without prejudice, pressure, and usurpation we must advance democratic processes in Macedonia, which needs neither national nor political homogeneity, he said.

The new situation in the SFRY Presidency can threaten the process of reaching an agreement on future relations in the Yugoslav community, while there is no democratic and agreed option for a solution in the country without an agreement between the sovereign republics, he said. While participating honestly in the negotiating process, Macedonia must take into account the protection of the interests and security of all its citizens. At the same time Macedonia must initiate and outline the reintroduction of these talks, for, if there are no talks there is no democratic outcome of the crisis, Tupurkovski stressed.

Noting that the political crisis drives us away from any possibility of economic stabilization, Tupurkovski said that the aims of the initiated reform and the long-term orientation toward a stable economy and a decent life for all citizens should not be forgotten.

According to Tupurkovski, nonfunctioning of the SFRY Presidency would jeopardize the implementation of its standpoints of 9 May, and the resolution of intranational confrontations in Croatia. This blockade is likely to force upon us a denouement to be dominated by repression, arms, and casualties. Having referred to the agreement of 9 May as a "peace plan," Tupurkovski said that the security of Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] soldiers depended on the implementation of that particular plan.

The nonfunctioning of the Supreme Command directly implies independence for the JNA in its activities. This independence can be abused or interpreted in an unacceptably flexible way. "This is not a criticism of the JNA—it has, itself, been pushed in the present unconstitutional position—but of those who think that an unconstitutional situation, chaos, and the JNA's nondefined status without its supreme command, could be used for political interests and options. It is a tragic fact that the military option and its various aspects are being promoted by some political leaderships as an alternative in formulating a policy," Tupurkovski stressed.

Tupurkovski called on the deputies and all citizens of Macedonia not to give in to extremist policies and leaderships. He appealed to political structures of Macedonia not to generate antifeelings toward anyone who did not deserve them. "We cannot condemn an entire nation for the short-sightedness of their inner political circles or severe relations of importance for people and their needs," Vasil Tupurkovski said in conclusion.

A discussion in the Assembly on the political situation in Yugoslavia since the SFRY Presidency work was blocked, lasted for more than three hours. A large majority of deputies expressed their anxiety over the present situation in Yugoslavia, and almost all of them condemned the present Serbian leadership for the political and constitutional crisis. [passage omitted]

Macedonian President Gligorov recalled that he had been an active participant on the process of averting two republics [Croatia and Serbia] from toppling the Federal Government. Macedonia is also to be praised because it did not allow the equality of Croatia to be undermined, Gligorov said, stressing that it is not only the issue of the equality of one republic, but also the equality of all republics in Yugoslavia. "Other republics cannot choose who the Macedonian representative in the SFRY Presidency will be. Hence, it is astonishing to hear that a demand has been made that instead of Mesic, someone else should be chosen to represent Croatia in the SFRY Presidency and be its president. It is not logical to ask for another Croat, because Mesic represents stands of his republic in the Presidency," Gligorov said.

The Assembly unanimously adopted stands demanding that the constitutional crisis in Yugoslavia be resolved in a peaceful and democratic way, and that the president and vice president of the SFRY Presidency be elected in accordance with provisions of the Federal Constitution. The

Assembly calls on the SFRY Presidency to elect Stipe Mesic its president, and Branko Kostic its vice president, as legitimate representatives of the two republics.

The Macedonian legislature gave its unreserved support to the Federal Executive Council [FEC] and urged uninterrupted functioning of the federal government. It holds that a proposal to take a vote of confidence in the FEC is unacceptable, and hence the Macedonian deputies will give their support to Ante Markovic and his government on 28 May.

[Belgrade TANJUG in English at 1904 GMT on 18 May adds in a Skopje-datelined report: "Vasil Tupurkovski, member of the Yugoslav Presidency of the republic of Macedonia, informed the Macedonian parliament today that he will visit Italy on 21 May, where he will meet with Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, parliament officials, and the leader of the democratic opposition. Tupurkovski said that his talks with Italian officials would, among other things, include Macedonia's constructive role in ensuring a democratic settlement of the Yugoslav crisis. Tupurkovski underlined that all the relevant foreign and international factors have been informed in detail about Macedonia's role in this context, and value [words indistinct] way out of the Yugoslav crisis."]

Bosnia-Hercegovina Views Outside Interference

LD1705192891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1724 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Sarajevo, May 17 (TANJUG)—The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina today said it was the target of unsubstantiated attacks coming from individual party leaders.

"Individuals outside the ministry are resorting to irresponsible statements as a means of undermining the unity of the ministry for the sake of their own ends and interests," the ministry said in a press release distributed in the republican capital of Sarajevo today.

The statement said that attempts were even made at directly interfering in the ministry's affairs.

The ministry underscored that it would strictly work in the interest of a legal state, and not in the interest of any party or party leader, and that it would in future take all legal measures, in agreement with competent legal authorities, to combat unsubstantiated accusations.

The republican Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs Zepinic today said that two groups of members of the special units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Croatia were apprehended on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina recently—three in Bosansko Grahovo and two in Orasje.